

07

Volume 1

Viola Liuzzo

44-28601

The Attorney General

March 26, 1965

Director, FBI

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

MRS. ANTHONY JAMES LIUZZO

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth background information immediately available concerning Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965, and her husband Anthony J. Liuzzo.

This information has also been furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. John Doar (Enclosure)  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

JWH/pak  
(13)



EX - 109

MCT-20

REC-3

MAR 31 11 00 AM '65

MAR 30 1965

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI



1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont

March 26, 1965

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM

1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

A check of the Michigan Secretary of State, the Detroit Police Department and the Detroit FBI files shows the following information concerning Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965, and her husband Anthony J. Liuzzo.

The Detroit, Michigan, Police Department files reveal that Viola Liuzzo, born April 11, 1925, at California, Pennsylvania, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan, was arrested on June 16, 1964, for "failing to send children to school." No disposition was shown for this arrest.

The files of the FBI Detroit Office disclose that Viola Liuzzo, no address given, wrote a letter to the "Detroit Free Press," a Detroit daily newspaper, belittling the Government's attack on James R. Hoffa, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The records of the Michigan Secretary of State's Office, Lansing, Michigan, indicate that a Michigan operator's license was issued to Viola Liuzzo, born April 11, 1925, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, on April 16, 1963. Her description is given as white female, blond hair, gray eyes, height 5 feet 2 1/2 inches, weight 127 pounds, no vision restriction.

*ANTHONY J. LIUZZO*  
The records of the Michigan Secretary of State's Office also indicate that a chauffeur's license was issued to Anthony James Liuzzo, born October 5, 1913, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit. The license is to expire May 5, 1965. Liuzzo is described as a white male, height 5 feet 10 1/2 inches, weight 192 pounds, blue eyes, black hair, with no vision restriction.



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
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Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
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Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JWH/pak  
(13)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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ENCLOSURE

A 1963 Oldsmobile coupe with 1965 Michigan license  
EJ 9177 is registered to Anthony J. Liuzzo, 19375 Marlowe,  
Detroit, Michigan.



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b7C

The 1964 City Directory for the West side of  
Detroit reveals that Anthony J. Liuzzo and his wife, Viola,  
reside at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, and he is employed as a  
business agent for the Teamsters Union in Detroit. It is  
reported that Mrs. Liuzzo was employed as a laboratory  
technician at Mount Sinai Hospital, Detroit, and is a  
part-time student at Wayne University in Detroit. She is  
reported to be the mother of five children.



1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen

March 26, 1965

1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

**MARCH FROM SELMA TO  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA  
MARCH 21 - 25, 1965**

On March 25, 1965, the parade from St. Jude's, a Catholic Institution, started at approximately 10:10 a. m. Approximately 12,000 marchers participated in this parade.

The program at the State Capitol commenced at 1:35 p. m., and lasted until approximately 4:10 p. m.

After the parade, twenty delegates designated to contact Governor George C. Wallace attempted to go to his office at the Capitol building. They were advised that the Governor's Office was closed and he would not see them on March 25, 1965. The delegates plan to return to see Governor Wallace on March 26, 1965.

Prior to the parade, officers of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office served papers on Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and associates which arose out of a civil action filed in Dallas County Court, Selma, Alabama. This suit was filed by the City of Selma and the Selma Bus Lines.

This civil action involves a claim by the Selma Bus Lines in the amount of \$9,750 for the loss of revenue, and a notice of damage by the City of Selma in the amount of \$100,000 for loss of revenue arising from demonstrations and other activities. The defendants were also enjoined from operating buses and other means to transport people in and about Selma, Alabama.

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

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(13)

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NOT RECORDED  
27 MAR 29 1965

25 MAR 29 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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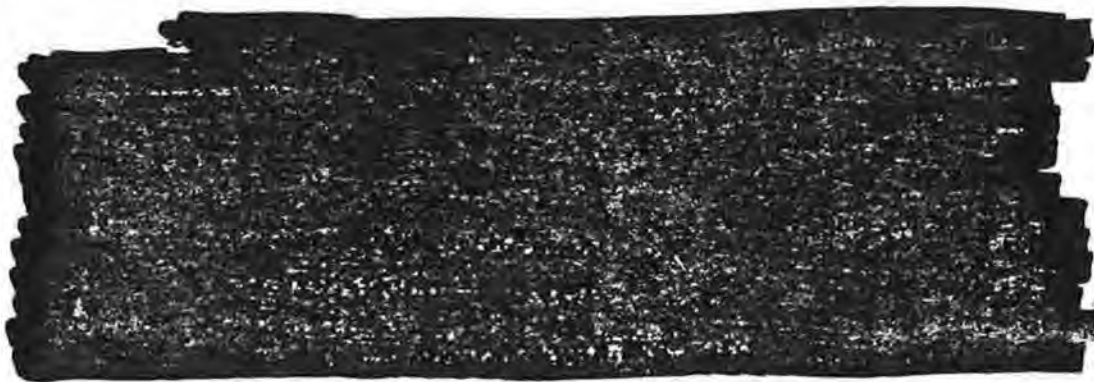
Information has been received that a Dr. Robert Wilken, Liza Senkler, Evans Johnson and two unidentified seminary students were attacked by unknown white persons in Montgomery, Alabama, just prior to their departure on a train for Washington, D. C.

These persons will be interviewed upon arrival in Washington, D. C., for complete details of the attack. Further action will be taken in accordance with the information furnished by the victims.

At approximately 3:00 p. m., on March 25, 1965, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo of Detroit, Michigan, was fatally shot in Lowndes County, approximately twenty miles from Selma, Alabama, on Highway 80 while driving her automobile, a 1963 Oldsmobile, from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

At the time the shooting occurred, Mrs. Liuzzo was accompanied by Mr. Leroy Jerome Moton, a nineteen-year-old Negro who resides in Selma, Alabama. Mrs. Liuzzo is white.

Mr. Moton had been coordinating transportation in Montgomery, Alabama, for demonstrators to return to Selma. Late in the afternoon, Mr. Moton and Mrs. Liuzzo picked up six passengers to return to Selma. They dropped off one passenger at the Montgomery, Alabama, Airport and then proceeded to Selma where the remaining passengers disembarked.





[REDACTED] b7A

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Paul Schoffertt,  
Assistant State Toxicologist, University of Auburn, Auburn,  
Alabama.

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] Mrs. Liuzzo  
had puncture marks in her arm indicating recent use of a  
hypodermic needle. Dr. Schoffertt has taken blood samples to  
determine whether any unusual circumstances are present.

The entire facilities of the FBI are fully committed  
to an all-out investigation of this killing.





March 26, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Martindale

Dear Mr. Watson:

It is suggested that the President may be interested in the attached memorandum which sets forth additional details concerning the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

The Attorney General has been advised of this information.

Sincerely yours,

*Personally delivered  
to Mrs. Sigall at White House  
2/26/65 P.M.*

Enclosure

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(11)

ENCLOSURE  
F201

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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REC-23

44-246011

19 MAR 31 1965

March 26, 1965

**MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO  
LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA  
MARCH 25, 1965**

The following are the most recent developments concerning the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, who was fatally shot as she drove in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

A complaint was filed today before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham charging William Orville Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., Eugene Thomas and Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., with violating Section 241, Title 18, United States Code, in that they conspired to intimidate and injure citizens in the free exercise of their Constitutional rights.

Eaton, Wilkins and Thomas were arrested by FBI Agents today and taken before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham who scheduled a preliminary hearing for Thursday, April 15, 1965, and remanded all three subjects to the custody of the United States Marshal in lieu of \$50,000 bond each. They are confined in the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham. Rowe will be taken before the Commissioner at a later time.

At the Commissioner's hearing, the subjects were represented by Matt Murphy, a Klan attorney.

All four of those charged in the complaint filed before the Commissioner are members of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

A Negro man was with Mrs. Liuzzo and reportedly was sitting close to her.

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WLM/JWH/cac

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ENCLOSURE

19 MAR 31 1965



The Attorney General

March 26, 1965

Director, FBI

**MURDER OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO  
IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA,  
MARCH 25, 1965**

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Martindale

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth additional details of the murder of Mrs. Viola Luzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

This information has been furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)

1 - Mr. John Doar (Enclosure)  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

WLM/JWH:bec  
(14)

SENT FROM D. O.  
TIME 6:20 PM  
DATE 3/26/65  
BY [Signature]

EX-101

44-2861-14  
REC-23 19 MAR 31 1965

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14 MAR 1965  
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

9:39 a.m.

March 28, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. DE LOACH  
MR. ROSEN

The President called and said they want him to talk to the husband of the woman who was killed; that he had had the counsel talk to him; that the man on the White House switchboard last night indicated he (the President) would talk to the man when he (the President) woke up. He said, before he talked to the man, he wanted to be sure I don't have any reason why he shouldn't because our report indicated the man is a Teamster man. I told the President I don't say the man has a bad character but he is well known as a Teamster strongarm man and on the woman's body we found numerous needle marks indicating she had been taking dope although we can't say that definitely because she is dead. I said I would be inclined to have White or someone like that talk to the husband rather than the President. The President said all right, White has already talked to him.

I said I thought the thing was in pretty good shape; that as soon as I finished talking to him.

that we propose to file the same kind of warrant as we filed in the Penn case in Georgia. I said I would talk to Sullivan and then let the President know. He asked me to please do so.

I advised him of the information and evidence we have; that I was going to talk to Alabama right away; that if Doar agrees to serving the warrants, we will have them in custody soon; that I would call him and he would make a statement from the White House. The President suggested that the Attorney General and I come over to the White House; that maybe we could get there before the astronauts and let television cover us as we come in; that we don't have to have any appointment, to just call George Meedy and tell him I'm coming over to see the President, then tell the Attorney General and just get in the car and come on over.

JEH:rm (8)

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44-28661-15

25 MAR 30 1965

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52 APR 1 5 1965 TELETYPE UNIT ☐



Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont,  
DeLoach, Rosen

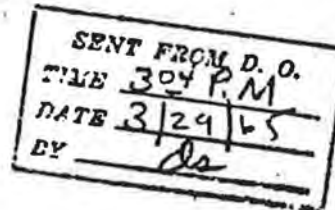
March 26, 1965

I told the President I would get this thing speeded up right  
away.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



9:32 a. m.

March 26, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. DE LOACH  
MR. ROSEN

2 Copies made by CT  
for review by Rowe Task Force  
Date 12-1-72

I called Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach and told him we have practically broken the case down in Selma, the killing of the woman, and that we have to move very rapidly. I stated I had instructed our men to go to see Ramsey Clark and lay the facts before him so he can decide what statute we can file under. The Attorney General said it will have to be John Doar as Ramsey Clark has left Alabama and is back here. I said the thought I had in mind was we ought to talk probably with Ramsey Clark or anyone the Attorney General designated to determine what statute to use and we wanted to get our hands on the people who did this before they destroy their guns and get out of the state.

I stated we had an informant in the car from which the shooting was done and he has, therefore, identified the two who actually fired the two guns that killed this woman; that he has identified the third man; and that the informant was the fourth man. I explained that the informant is a member of the Bessemer, Alabama, Klan. I stated that the three men we want to arrest are not going to work today and we have their homes under surveillance; that we want to move to take them into custody and conduct an intensive interrogation of them; that I think it is imperative we act fast so they can't get away from us and be another six-months case like we had in Mississippi.

The Attorney General stated, if we are going to get the stuff drawn up quickly, we will do better to work with Doar down there. I stated I will do that then; that I will arrange for Sullivan to talk with Doar and work this thing out down there.

EX-103

REC 44

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I advised him that the President knows in substance what I had just told him because the President had called me this morning about six o'clock and two or three times last night. The Attorney General indicated the President had called him around eight o'clock this morning. I stated I told the President the developments as we had them and that there must be nothing said by him or anyone else about the nearness of breaking the case.

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JEH:rm (8)

52 APR 25 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

25 MAR 30 1965

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, DeLoach, March 26, 1965  
Rosen

I told the Attorney General that the President asked if he should talk to the husband of the woman in Detroit who had died and I suggested the President have Lee White call this man and, if the man behaves himself, the President could consider talking to him later. I stated the man himself doesn't have too good a background and the woman had indications of needle marks in her arms where she had been taking dope; that she was sitting very, very close to the Negro in the car; that it had the appearance of a necking party.

I told the Attorney General I would get in touch with DeLoach right away. He said he thought that would be the fastest. I said I would get that done right away.

9:45 a.m.

I called the Attorney General to advise him of the President's call. I related that the President asked about the background of the man in Detroit (the husband of the woman killed in Alabama) and I told him what it was; that the President said Lee White had already talked to the man and he wanted to know what I thought about calling him. I stated I advised the President to hold off until after the case is broken and then he could consider whether he wants to call the man and extend condolences.

I told the Attorney General that the President then said he wanted the Attorney General and me, as soon as we get the warrants and make the arrests, to come to the White House, to try to get there before the astronauts arrive, and he would then make a statement on television with us present. I said the trouble is the astronauts get there at eleven o'clock and we can't complete matters by that time. The Attorney General said no, we would have to do it after.

I told him they will call here and let me know at once and I will let him know at once; that will be after eleven o'clock. The Attorney General said the ceremony for the astronauts would probably last forty-five minutes and I indicated I thought we could do it right after that.

The Attorney General said he was going to talk with Lee White in his (the Attorney General's) office then; that he would advise this same procedure and tell White to tell the President that we are just not going to make it before the astronauts.

The Attorney General asked where Sullivan is and I replied that Sullivan is in Selma. He remarked that Sullivan is fifty miles from DeLoach and I told him they can talk by telephone. I said I would let him know as soon as it is done.



Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, DeLoach,  
Rosen

March 26, 1965

10:57 a. m.

The Attorney General called. He said he had talked with DeLoach and DeLoach has drawn up the complaint but has to get it typed and then we are off. I told him I had just talked to our people and they advised he was to have it by 11:40; that they cleared it with DeLoach about 10:40 and it would take about an hour; that there will be four arrests made, including our informant; that the informant is scared to death and we may have to move him and his family out to some other part of the state or the country to protect them when it gets to trial.

I said I thought it would be ready at 11:40 so he could make arrangements to go over to the White House.

11:00 a. m.

The Attorney General called to ask if I would have typed up the factual information. I told him I was having it typed up; that either he or the President could read it.

12:11 p. m.

The Attorney General returned my call of a few moments before. I advised him that I had received a call from Mr. DeLoach, whom I had sent over to the White House, and that Mr. DeLoach advised the President had told him he would like to have us come over to the White House at once to stand by for the arrests. I stated the arrests had not yet been made. I told him I would come around and join him. He said he thought he would take along Ramsey Clark since he had been down there. I said I would come around to his office and he said that was fine.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 9:57 AM
DATE 3/29/65
BY SA

EUGENE THOMAS  
BH file # 44-1236 1A

WILLIAM C. EATON  
BH file 44-1236 1A

Copy [unclear] [unclear]  
Bn file # 44-1236 1A

"ELL" LEROY WILKINS  
Bn file # 44-1236 1A



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- Copy to:  
1 - USA, Birmingham, Alabama  
1 - USA, Montgomery, Alabama  
1 - Departmental Attorney,  
Montgomery, Alabama

Report of  
Date:

SA [REDACTED] 67C  
3/30/65

Office MOBILE, ALABAMA

Field Office File #: MO 44-1245

Bureau File #

Title:

EUGENE THOMAS;  
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;  
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM

Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis:

On 3/19/65, victim LIUZZO appeared at Selma, Ala., and was closely associated with the civil rights activities relating to the march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

Her vehicle, a 1963 light blue Oldsmobile bearing Mich. License EJ9177 was being utilized at Selma and during the march as a transportation vehicle for civil rights workers.

On the evening of 3/25/65, at about 8:00 p.m., as victims LIUZZO and MOTON were enroute from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., to pick up another load of passengers to return them to Selma following march, a vehicle later determined to be a 1962 Chevrolet Impala driven by subject THOMAS and occupied by other three subjects, pulled alongside the LIUZZO vehicle and fired several shots from a .38 caliber revolver and a .22 caliber weapon into the LIUZZO vehicle.

As a result of this action Mrs. LIUZZO was killed. The auto she was driving, her 1963 Oldsmobile, ran off the road and victim MOTON succeeded in stopping the vehicle by turning off the ignition and placing foot on brake.

The shooting was reported to the FBI shortly after 9:30 p.m. CST, night of 3/25/65. Investigation immediately instituted, crime scene examined, witness interviewed, and vehicle examined.

Independently the Ala. State Troopers were notified by an unidentified truck driver that he observed what appeared to be a wreck off

MO 44-1245

Highway 80 east. State Troopers arrived at scene minutes after this report, observed LIUZZO appeared to have been shot, and secured the scene. State authorities performed autopsy, [REDACTED]. Joint examination of vehicle and crime scene performed by state authorities and FBI Agents.

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

On 3/26/65, this case was discussed with Acting Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR, at Montgomery, Ala., who authorized the filing of a complaint charging all subjects with violation of Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code. SA [REDACTED] on same date filed a complaint against all subjects before USC JAMES M. GUTTERY at Montgomery and warrant was issued for the arrest of all subjects.

b7C

[REDACTED]

- b7A

Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE has offered FBI full cooperation of state authorities in the investigation and advises that the State of Alabama is interested in pursuing any state criminal action that might arise from the investigation.

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MO 44-1245

I. PREDICATION AND KLAN PARADE OF March 21, 1965,  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.

1  
MO 44-1245  
JRC/lc

DETAILS:

Negro civil rights demonstrators conducted a march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, March 21-25, 1965. The purpose of the march was to dramatize voting registration restrictions in Alabama and to present to Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE a petition of grievances. The march was led by Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. It culminated in front of the State Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama, March 25, 1965, with some 12,000 demonstrators attending the ceremonies. The ceremonies in front of the State Capitol commenced at approximately 1:35 PM and lasted until approximately 4:10 PM, March 25, 1965. The crowd dispersed generally at the conclusion in all directions at request of Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), who served as master of ceremonies. From observation there appeared no organized plan for the dispersal of the marchers and those from Selma, Alabama, were returning to Selma by common carrier, trucks, and private automobiles.

At Montgomery, Alabama, on March 21, 1965, IRA DE MENT, Attorney for the City of Montgomery, telephonically advised the Montgomery Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that a request was received by the Montgomery City Commission addressed to the Board of Commissioners by Parade Director BOBBY SHELTON signed by F. M. VANN, dated March 20, 1965, and represented the Knights of the Klux Klan of America, Inc. Mr. DE MENT believed that the Ku was probably an error of omission. The reason for the parade was listed as "to protest the order issued by FRANK JOHNSON (struck through and Federal Court written above) allowing 5 day demonstration march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama". DE MENT advised the City Commission had on March 21, 1965, issued a permit allowing a parade beginning at 2 PM, March 21, 1965, in the 1200 block of Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, proceeding west on Madison Avenue to Madison and Bainbridge Streets, south on Bainbridge to Bainbridge and Dexter, west on Dexter to Court Square. The return route would be the same. All were ordered to conduct themselves in orderly manner and no one in the parade would wear masks. When the parade ended the group was ordered to disperse in an orderly manner. The permit expired 6 PM, March 21, 1965.

2

MO 44-1245

A Klan motorcade led by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, in car number one, and BOB CREEK, Grand Dragon of Alabama, in car number two, consisting of some 240 people in 83 cars decorated with confederate flags departed Patterson Field, Madison Avenue, Montgomery, 2:40 PM, March 21, 1965. Bureau Agents observed this motorcade. Most of the cars were occupied by family groups, well dressed. A few old cars were occupied by men dressed in overalls. Lead cars were observed carrying signs such as "Voting rights - yes; Special attention - no"; "Be a Man - Join the Klan", and "KKK forever".

The motorcade rather than disbanding at the Court Square in Montgomery, Alabama, continued on past the Court Square and proceeded to the city limits of Prattville, Alabama, where the occupants of the cars took the confederate flags off the cars and disbanded completely going away in different directions. No speech making was made at the disbanding spot. The entire group was disbanded at 3:32 PM, March 21, 1965.



MO 44-1245

II.

IDENTIFICATION OF CARS PARTICIPATING IN KLAN RALLY  
AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, March 21, 1965

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

1

On March 21, 1965, at approximately 12:30 PM, a number of automobiles were observed being parked in the parking lot of Crampton Bowl, Montgomery, Alabama. The automobiles were parked in lines facing Madison Avenue and persons arriving in these vehicles were observed placing confederate flags on these automobiles. ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was observed standing in front of the parked automobiles talking to other people. Several cars were observed bearing signs with the slogan, "BE A MAN JOIN THE KLAN".

J. B. STONER, an attorney who resides near Atlanta, Georgia, was observed in Crampton Bowl with his 1960 Oldsmobile, bearing 1964 Georgia license number 2A8697, parked with the other vehicles. STONER's automobile had a large confederate flag flying from the radio antenna, located on the right side of this vehicle near the front.

At approximately 2:50 PM, the vehicles left Crampton Bowl parking lot forming a motorcade and proceeded through the city of Montgomery and out of Montgomery on U. S. Highway 31 where the motorcade pulled over to the side of the highway and dispersed.

The following license plate numbers were observed parked in the Crampton Bowl parking lot or in the motorcade:

1965 Alabama

[REDACTED]

b7c

7

On 3/21/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] /ls b7c Date dictated 3/26/65

MO 44-1245

III. ACTIVITIES OF VIOLA LIUZZO IN SELMA-MONTGOMERY AREA



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/651

Miss FRANCES JACKSON, 1373 George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

She first met Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan, on Friday, March 19, 1965. A boy brought Mrs. LIUZZO from the Brown Chapel AME Church to the residence of Miss JACKSON and her mother and advised the JACKSONs that Mrs. LIUZZO was assigned to live in their apartment during the week of the civil rights demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. LIUZZO stayed Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning at the JACKSON residence. She left Sunday morning and marched with the marchers from Selma, Alabama, toward Montgomery, Alabama, returning to the apartment that same Sunday evening, March 21, 1965.

Mrs. LIUZZO remained at the JACKSON home and in the area until Wednesday morning between 6:30 and 7:00 AM, March 24, 1965. At this time she departed from the JACKSON apartment to join the marchers near Montgomery, Alabama. This was the last time that Miss JACKSON saw Mrs. LIUZZO.

During her residence in the apartment, Mrs. LIUZZO advised Miss JACKSON that she had been working with colored people in Detroit, Michigan, and that she had come to Selma, Alabama, to participate in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Miss JACKSON advised that Mrs. LIUZZO had been alone when she came to their home and she did not know if Mrs. LIUZZO had been accompanied by any persons on her trip from Detroit, Michigan, to Selma, Alabama.

27

On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245  
by SA [redacted] and [redacted], JR./ls 57C Date dictated 3/30/65

FD-302 (Rev. 3-10-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

1

Mrs. WILLIE LEB JACKSON, Apartment 137 C, George Washington Carver Apartments, advised that she is manager of Smith's Cafe, 1811 Griffin Street, and works every day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

She stated that she has resided in Selma, Alabama, during the past twelve years and during the past two months has been helping with preparation of food served to the demonstrators at Brown's Chapel on Sylvan Street. She stated that she is not a member of any organization, however, has been helping with the food and also making her apartment available for sleeping quarters for some of the people coming to Selma who are involved with the racial demonstrations.

She stated that when she returned home on Friday, March 19, 1965, she found that a Mrs. LIUZZO, -- whom she knows better as "VI," had moved into her apartment, having been sent there by someone who was in charge of registering the arriving demonstrators and furnishing them with places to stay. She stated that she believes Mrs. LIUZZO had arrived in Selma sometime during the morning of March 19, 1965, from Detroit, Michigan. She stated Mrs. LIUZZO was traveling alone and, to her knowledge, never went with any other person while around Selma.

She stated that also staying in her apartment were four white women, identified as follows:

"KITS" Last name unknown, from California, who stayed until March 21, 1965, at which time she went on the march to Montgomery.

A white woman, name unknown, who departed Saturday morning, March 20, 1965, and she did not know where this woman came from or went to; however, her luggage is still at Mrs. JACKSON's apartment.

28

On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and [redacted]  
SA [redacted]

67C

MO 44-1245

2

A white woman, named JOAN, last name unknown, from Wisconsin, who departed the apartment on Wednesday, March 24, 1965, enroute to Montgomery.

PAT last name unknown, who arrived from Boston on March 20, 1965, and who left on March 21, 1965.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that there were also two Negro girls, SHIRLEY last name unknown and DEAN last name unknown, who came together from Boston, Massachusetts, on Friday, March 19, 1965, and departed Sunday evening, March 21, 1965, at approximately 9:00 p.m. enroute back to Boston.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that her daughter, FRANCES JACKSON, age 17, stayed at the apartment during the day-time hours and has told Mrs. JACKSON that Mrs. LIUZZO stayed around the apartment all day every day either sleeping or playing with FRANCES' baby, except for an hour or so each day when Mrs. LIUZZO went to Brown's Chapel.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that she was home every evening during this period and Mrs. LIUZZO stayed in the apartment every evening with the exception of about an hour or less each evening when she left the apartment saying she was going to Brown's Chapel.

Mrs. JACKSON said she had numerous conversations with Mrs. LIUZZO and found her to be a person who likes everyone she meets and after a while, you had the feeling you had known her a long time. She said during her conversations Mrs. LIUZZO never mentioned anything to her indicating that she had been molested or involved in any trouble while in Selma. Mrs. LIUZZO appeared to be in good health and the only medication she knows of was on Sunday, March 21, 1965, when Mrs. LIUZZO took an aspirin. She said Mrs. LIUZZO told her that her husband did not want her to go to Selma, Alabama, however, if she really believed in the march from Selma to Montgomery, for her to go on down to Selma.

Mrs. JACKSON said to her knowledge, Mrs. LIUZZO, when she left the apartment, was always alone and that she ate most of her meals at the apartment.



She stated that it was her impression that some of the workers of the SCLC were using Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile from the time she arrived in Selma, including taking it on the march from Selma to Montgomery, as Mrs. JACKSON had never seen her automobile. Mrs. JACKSON recalled that on Sunday, March 21, 1965, between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Mrs. LIUZZO was assigned to answering the telephone in Apartment 134 C, which is occupied by ERMATINE WILLIAMS, on which people in connection with the demonstrations were calling, possibly for instructions, but she is not certain what the calls were about.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that at approximately 6:30 to 7:00 a.m., on Wednesday, March 24, 1965, Mrs. LIUZZO left the apartment alone on foot stating she was going to Brown's Chapel to catch a bus to Montgomery, Alabama, to St. Jude's Hospital, where she intended to take part in the march from St. Jude's onto the Alabama State Capitol Building in Montgomery. She said Mrs. LIUZZO told her at that time that her automobile was in Montgomery all the while Mrs. LIUZZO was staying at Mrs. JACKSON's residence.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that she never again saw Mrs. LIUZZO after about 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 1965.

Mrs. JACKSON was shown a photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red in color; however, she stated she has never seen such an automobile in the vicinity of her apartment. She was also shown photographs of GARY THOMAS ROWE, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and stated that she had never seen any of these men to her knowledge.

MO 44-1245

JRC:gmh

1

By communication of March 26, 1965, the Detroit Office advised that records of the Michigan Secretary of State Office, Lansing, Michigan, indicated a 1963 Oldsmobile Coupe, 1965 Michigan license EJ9177, was registered to ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan, Vehicle Registration No. 6326M60486. A Michigan Operators License, No. L200-847-015-283, was issued on April 16, 1963, to VIOLA LIUZZO, born April 11, 1925; address 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan; described as a female, blonde hair, gray eyes, 5 feet 2½ inches tall, weighing 127 pounds.

The Detroit, Michigan, Police Department files revealed that VIOLA LIUZZO of 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan, born April 11, 1925, at California, Pennsylvania, was arrested on June 16, 1964, for "failing to send children to school"; no disposition was shown.

The 1964 Detroit Directory revealed that ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, wife VIOLA, resided at 19375 Marloe Street, and that he was employed as Business Agent for the Teamsters of Detroit, Michigan.

[REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c, D

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

Rev. JAMES EDWARD ORANGE, home address 2310 25th Court North, Birmingham, Alabama, was interviewed at the Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama. He furnished the following information.

One day during the civil rights march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, held between March 21 and 25, 1965, he had made an announcement at Brown Chapel AME Church concerning transportation for persons on the march. He believed this announcement was made on Tuesday, March 23, 1965. He requested that persons who had automobiles which might be used for transporting marchers come to the front of the audience.

After this announcement one of the persons who came forward and volunteered the use of her automobile for transporting civil rights marchers on the march was Mrs. VIOLA LUZZO of Detroit, Michigan. Rev. ORANGE advised that this was the same individual who had later been killed on Thursday night, March 25, 1965, near Selma, Alabama.

Rev. ORANGE advised that to the best of his recollection this was the only time he held any conversation with Mrs. LUZZO during the period she was in Selma, Alabama.

32

On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245  
by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] /ls 67C Date dictated 3/30/65



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1  
Mrs. LORETTA MITCHELL, 538 George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

Mrs. MITCHELL advised that she had been acquainted with Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO only through having met her on the street in the George Washington Carver Homes area during the past week. She recalled that Mrs. LIUZZO had stopped and talked to her a few minutes on the street. Their conversation consisted only of a discussion about the rainy weather. She did not know at this time this white woman's name but was later advised that this person was the woman who had been killed on the highway near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965.

Mrs. MITCHELL stated that this conversation which she had with Mrs. LIUZZO was the only time she had spoken with her. She believed this conversation was held on Wednesday, March 24, 1965.

33

On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245  
by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] /ls 57C Date dictated 3/30/65

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1  
Mrs. NANNIE LEA WASHBURN, home address Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at 106 George Washington Carver House, Selma, Alabama. Mrs. WASHBURN refused to give her home address and stated as the reason for her refusal, her fear of retribution by the White Citizens Council and the KKK. She furnished the following information.

Mrs. WASHBURN advised she had on one occasion during the period March 21 to 25, 1965, had lunch with a woman who introduced herself as Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO from Detroit, Michigan. This lunch was held at Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama, where the civil rights marchers were being fed meals.

During this conversation with Mrs. LIUZZO, Mrs. LIUZZO told Mrs. WASHBURN "I had to come because of brutality in Selma, Alabama. I don't see how anybody could keep from coming". Mrs. LIUZZO indicated she had come to Selma, Alabama, for the specific purpose of participating in the civil rights demonstration march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. LIUZZO also advised Mrs. WASHBURN "she sent a check here to buy food or something for these people". Mrs. LIUZZO also asked what the demonstrators needed more, food or money.

After this question by Mrs. LIUZZO, Mrs. WASHBURN searched for a person in charge and discussed this question with some minister whose name she can not recall. This minister told her that either food or money would be acceptable. Mrs. WASHBURN relayed this information to Mrs. LIUZZO.

Mrs. LIUZZO asked Mrs. WASHBURN where she was from and Mrs. WASHBURN advised her she was from Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. WASHBURN stated that she told Mrs. LIUZZO to be careful while in Selma, Alabama, because she knew from personal experience that a lot of innocent persons in the south had been killed. She further advised Mrs. LIUZZO that women in this area were in as much danger as the men.

Mrs. WASHBURN said she told Mrs. LIUZZO that this was a dangerous place, that anywhere police used gas and prods on people is a dangerous place.

34

On 3/29/65 at Selma, AlabamaFile # MO 44-1245by SA [redacted] and [redacted] /ls 67cDate dictated 3/30/65

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

Mrs. NELL LAWSON, 5625 Thompson Mill Road, Decatur, Georgia, was interviewed at 10C George Washington Carver Home, Selma, Alabama. She furnished the following information.

During the period March 21 to 25, 1965, Mrs. LAWSON had been working in the kitchen at Brown Chapel AM3 Church, Selma, Alabama. One day during this week, exact day not recalled, but believed to be Tuesday, March 23, 1965, a woman introduced herself to Mrs. LAWSON in the kitchen. This woman stated that she was Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. LIUZZO asked Mrs. LAWSON to ride with her from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, to take some persons to Montgomery for the last day's march on that city. This was to be a portion of the civil rights march made from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. LAWSON told Mrs. LIUZZO that she could not ride with her as she intended to drive her own vehicle in order that more transportation would be available as needed.

Mrs. LAWSON stated that to the best of her recollection this was the only time she had any discussion with Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO.

35

On 3/29/65 at Selma, AlabamaFile # MO 44-1245by SA [redacted] and [redacted] /ls 67cDate dictated 3/30/65



MO 44-1245

V.

INTERVIEWS OF PASSENGERS IN CAR OF VIOLA LIUZZO  
ON MONTGOMERY TO SELMA TRIP, March 25, 1965

NO 44-1245

XI. ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECTS

NO. 44-1245

XIII. INVESTIGATION AS TO ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECTS



MO 44-1245

XIV. STATE PROSECUTION

- Mr. Mohr  
- Mr. DeLoach  
- Mr. Conrad  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley

April 1, 1965

MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO  
LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA  
MARCH 25, 1965

1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

This is to advise you of developments in our investigation of the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965. As you are aware, four subjects, Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton, Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., and Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., were arrested by FBI Agents on March 26, 1965, and charged with violation of a Federal civil rights statute in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo. The four subjects have posted \$50,000 bond each and have been released on this charge pending Federal Grand Jury action. Subject Wilkins has also posted a \$500 bond on a Parole Violators Warrant which grew out of his previous conviction for a violation of the Federal Firearms Act.

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

JWH/pak  
(13)

*Rosen*  
*4/1/65*  
*John*

44-28601

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐ ENCLOSURE

# Memorandum

THE DIRECTOR

DATE: 3/26/65

TO : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
Viola Liuzzo, Victim  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

DeLoach  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

For the Director's information, Inspector Malley and I have been in direct touch with this situation throughout the night, and with Inspector Sullivan in Selma and SAC Ingram and Inspector McGovern at Birmingham, to insure that it was handled rapidly and thoroughly.

The Birmingham Office and Inspector Sullivan at Selma are working closely together so that we can develop the maximum of information in the minimum of time. Both offices have been instructed that all agents must keep their mouths shut and our goal is to develop sufficient detail from the informant to permit full identification of the subjects and corroborating evidence that will permit us to take action as soon as possible today, from the standpoint of arrests and searches.

You will be kept advised.

REC-11

33

AHB:CSH (5)

cc Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. McGowan  
Mr. DeLoach

4 APR 2 1965

EX-101

no information is  
to come out from  
Alabama. The A.G. &  
I will see the President  
when something can be  
said & President will  
announce it. Put all  
speed possible on this.

9 APR 5 - 1965

CC-MR. TOLSON



661.  
FBI

Date: 3-29-65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
Attention: Laboratory  
FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)  
SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka. - Victim;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victim  
CR - EL

ReButel to MOBILE/SELMA 3-29-65.

On the night of 3-25-65 victims car was fired upon by handguns believed to be .38 caliber and .22 caliber

Copy - Bureau of Lab  
in the Section of

Wick (4) - Bureau (RM) (Enc. - 4)  
(1 - Package)  
2 - Mobile

BWG:kg  
(6)

REC-11-7

EX-101

2 MAR 31 1965

SEVEN

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MOBILE</b>	DATE <b>3/30/65</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>3/26-30/65</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>GENE THOMAS;                  WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;                  LILLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;                  RY THOMAS ROWE, JR.                  LOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM;                  ROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>ASAC ROBERT G. JENSEN</b>	TYPED BY <b>fc</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>CR - EL</b></div>	

REFERENCE: Birmingham teletype to Bureau, 3/26/65.

P.

**INFORMANTS:**



b7D

It is noted that copies have been designated for the U. S. Attorney at Montgomery and at Birmingham, Ala., however, no dissemination of this report is being made at this time.

COPIES MADE: 5 Bureau (AMSD - REGISTERED MAIL) 5 Mobile (Selma) 1 USA, Montgomery 1 USA, Birmingham 5 Birmingham (44-1236)	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
		44-21611-	REC-6	
		4 APR 1 1965		
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		NOTATIONS		
NOV 2 1965	EST RECD.	FWD.	FWD.	FWD.

6-105

BH 44-1236

6

The following description was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.
Residence	205 16th Place SW, Apartment 35A Birmingham, Alabama
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date and place of birth	August 15, 1930, Savannah, Georgia
Height	6'
Weight	220 lbs.
Build	Medium
Hair	Red
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Light
Social Security No.	255-46-1902
Employment	Presently unemployed
Military service	U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, SN 1044062; honorably discharged March 4, 1957
Marital status	Divorced



1Date 3/29/65

At approximately 4 p.m., March 26, 1965, CARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., was placed under arrest by SAs [REDACTED] at a location on the outskirts of Birmingham in the vicinity of the southern city limits of Birmingham, Alabama. b7c

ROWE was advised that he did not have to furnish any information, that any information he furnished could be used against him in a court of law and that he could consult an attorney. He was informed that he would be transported immediately to the office of the U. S. Commissioner in the U. S. Post Office Building at Birmingham, Alabama, where bond would be set and that while at the U. S. Post Office Building he would be placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal. ROWE made no statement except to the effect that he would contact his attorney while at the office of the U. S. Marshal.

ROWE was immediately transported to the office of the U. S. Marshal at Birmingham, Alabama, and was afforded an immediate appearance before U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, it being noted that ROWE's attorney, MATT MURPHY, JR., was present.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SAs [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/29/65  
mjh

Date 3/26/65

1. At 1:48 p.m., March 26, 1965, a search warrant was served at the apartment of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Apartment Number 35A, 205 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, in the company of Special Agents [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] Special Agent [REDACTED] executed search warrant issued by the U. S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

The apartment was entered through the unlocked rear door, after permission to enter had been requested. It was determined upon entering the apartment that it was unoccupied. A copy of the search warrant and a list of items taken pursuant to the search warrant was left at the premises at 2:35 p.m.

The premises were searched by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and the search was completed at 2:35 p.m. March 26, 1965.

The following items were taken:

1) One metal container, army brown in color with the following markings " Do not use as food container, 900 cartridges 30 carbine ball M1 in 50 round cartons lot LC 13029."

Containing as follows:

A) 139 rounds of various caliber live ammunition and one spent .22 cartridge casing.

B) One 30 round capacity magazine for .30 caliber revolver.

C) One cloth bag containing 126 rounds various caliber live ammunition and one spent .38 cartridge casing. The bag is marked Cherry-Burrell Corp.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in 67C Date dictated 3/26/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

- D) Four boxes of "Western Brand Super-Match" midrange .30 caliber ammunition containing a total of 80 rounds of live ammunition and 80 spent cartridges.
- 2) One German made bayonet and sheath.
- 3) One .38 caliber Western live cartridge found on bedroom dresser.



1Date 3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS was placed under arrest by  
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
at Lorene's Cafe, Bessemer, Alabama, at 11:08 a.m.,  
March 26, 1965. b7c

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SA [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] : mjh Date dictated 3/26/65 b7c

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date B/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS arrived at the FBI Office,  
14th Floor, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama, at 11:45 a.m.,  
March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SA [REDACTED] : mjh 576 Date dictated 3/26/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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b7A

b7A

EUGENE THOMAS furnished the following information  
pertaining to his physical description:

Name:	EUGENE THOMAS, aka Gene
Date of Birth:	March 21, 1923
Place of Birth:	Bessemer, Alabama
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	6'
Weight:	178 pounds
Eyes:	Blue
Hair:	Brown
Scars and Marks, and tattoos:	Tattoo of girl in bathing suit; on left upper outer arm, word LOUISE under picture. Two tattoos of birds, color blue and red on chest. Birds being approximately 3 inches by 2 inches.



**Relatives:**

Wife, FLOSEY LOUISE THOMAS,  
nee, GARRETT

**Children:**

WAYNE THOMAS, age 21  
Wilks Station  
Bessemer, Alabama;

CALVIN MERLE, age 19  
U. S. Air Force, California;

MICHAEL ELMIS, age 15  
resides with parents;

Aunt, LEON TRAMBLE  
4th Avenue  
Bessemer, Alabama;

Uncle, J. E. BOYD  
Hueytown, Alabama;

**Employed:**

Fairfield Steet Company (TCI)  
position, machinist (employed  
24 years)

**Current residence:**

1519 12th Avenue, North  
Bessemer, Alabama  
(three years)

**Past residence:**

1600 Block Fairfax Avenue  
Bessemer, Alabama  
(fifteen years)

**Arrests:**

THOMAS admits being arrested in 1949 by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, in Bessemer for being drunk on the highway. He also admits that in 1963 he was arrested by the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office for being drunk on the highway, and carrying a concealed weapon. Mr. THOMAS said that it was during a demonstration that this arrest was made. Mr. THOMAS also advised that he has been arrested for two minor motor vehicle violations in Bessemer, Alabama.

-BH 44-1236

5

Military Service: U. S. Navy Serial Number,  
837 5461  
Selective Service  
Number: 1 70 23 97  
Social Security  
Number: 418 18 1816  
Alabama Drivers  
License Number: 05 23 123.

1Date 3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS departed the FBI Office, 14th Floor, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama, at 1:22 p.m., March 26, 1965, en route to the U. S. Commissioner's Office, located in the U. S. Courthouse, 5th Avenue and 19th Street. He arrived at the U. S. Commissioner's Office in the U. S. Courthouse at 1:29 p.m. on March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SA [REDACTED] : mjh b7c Date dictated 3/26/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



Incidental to the arrest of EUGENE THOMAS and a search of his person, the following items were removed from his person by SA [REDACTED] of the Birmingham Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A receipt for this property was furnished to EUGENE THOMAS on March 26, 1965. The following pages contain copies of the items of interest. b7c

First, a commission card designating EUGENE THOMAS as a Special Constable for the purpose of law enforcement only.

The second is a small metal police badge bearing the name G. THOMAS, Special Police, Fairfield, Alabama.

The third, a commission card entitled commission for special policeman, City of Bessemer, State of Alabama.

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,  
Jefferson County

I, Eugene Thomas

Do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of Alabama, so long as I continue as citizen thereof; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Special Constable to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Eugene Thomas (L. S.)

Sworn and subscribed before me, the 14th day of January 1965

Walter G. Bridges, Notary Public



COMMISSION

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,  
Jefferson County

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:  
That I, WALTER G. BRIDGES, as Judge of the Bessemer County Court, do hereby appoint and empower

Eugene Thomas  
SPECIAL CONSTABLE for the purpose of LAW ENFORCEMENT only, in and for Precinct 23 of Jefferson County, Ala.

Given under my hand this 4th day of January, 1965

Walter G. Bridges, Judge  
Bessemer County Court

COMMISSION FOR SPECIAL POLICEMAN  
STATE of ALABAMA CITY OF BESSEMER  
Jefferson County

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This Is To Certify That Eugene Thomas has been duly Sworn in and appointed by me as a SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER, in and for the City of Bessemer, to hold such office without compensation until the

23rd day of May 1965

This 23rd day of May 1965

unless otherwise ordered. This Commission may be revoked at discretion of the Chief of Police.

George H. Lamon  
Chief of Police

Date March 27, 1965

In connection with the serving of a search warrant, served on Mrs. FLOSSIE LOISE THOMAS, wife of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Alabama, on March 20, 1965, and in connection with a Consent to Search statement voluntarily furnished by Mrs. FLOSSIE LOISE THOMAS concerning her 1958 Oldsmobile, bearing 1965 Alabama license 1B-19643, the following articles were taken, as indicated below:

## Article:

1 - Smith & Wesson  
.38 revolver,  
SN C418827

6 rounds R-P.38  
Special ammunition

1 - .38 Smith and  
Wesson snub-  
nosed revolver  
SN 179485

5 rounds .38  
caliber ammunition  
(4 - REM-UMC .38  
special, 1 - R-P  
.38 special)

1 box Peters 12  
gauge SP extra long  
range shotgun shells

3 boxes Winchester  
.38 special ammuni-  
tion

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted] ela 57C Date dictated 3/26/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



1Date 3/26/65

At 11:16 a.m., March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON was apprehended at his residence, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama, by SAs [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by [REDACTED] R: mjh 3/26/65 b7c

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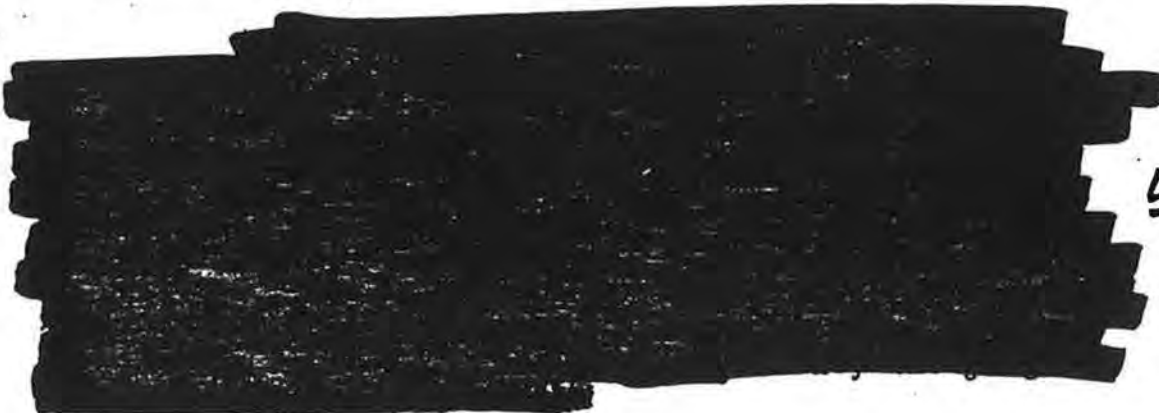
Date 3/26/65

At 11:27 a.m., March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON was placed in an FBI car by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was then transported from his residence, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama, to FBI Headquarters, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama. The arrival time at FBI Headquarters was 12:06 p.m., March 26, 1965. b7c

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SAs [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] mjh Date dictated 3/26/65 b7c

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 3/26/65

b7C

b7A



b7A



b7A



b7A



b7A

Name  
AddressWILLIAM ORVILLE EATON  
Route 6, Box 866  
Bessemer, AlabamaOn 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236by SA  &  mjh Date dictated 3/26/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



BH 44-1236

## (Description of EATON continued)

Birth	April 12, 1923 Limestone County, Alabama
Height	5'7½"
Weight	164 pounds
Hair	Brown, balding
Eyes	Blue
Scars and marks	One 4" operation scar stomach; one 4" scar left leg; tattoo "U. S. Army" left arm, upper.
Relatives	Wife - MIRIAN MARIE EATON Same address  Son - WILLIAM O. EATON, JR. Age 14, same address  Son - EARL JOSEPH EATON, Age 17, same address  Son - JAMES ELLIOT EATON, Age 10, same address  Son - JOHN EATON Age 7, same address  Daughter - PAMELA SUE EATON Age 4, same address
Occupation	Retired steel port helper, Tennessee Coal and Iron, Fairfield, Alabama
Military service	U. S. Army January 22, 1940, to January 1, 1946. Discharge - honorable. Army Serial Number 20417902

3

BH 44-1236

(Description of EATON continued)

Social Security Number 423-18-1472

Alabama Driver's License 1412272

Selective Service Number 1-69-23-422

1Date March 27, 1965

[REDACTED]

b7A

b7C

[REDACTED]

b7A

At 12:56 p.m., March 26, 1965, EATON was photographed in the FBI Office. At 1:01 p.m. on March 26, 1965, EATON was fingerprinted in the FBI Office. The fingerprinting was completed at 1:06 p.m.

At 1:22 p.m., March 26, 1965, EATON was transported by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the FBI Office to the office of U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, Room 300, Federal Building, Birmingham, Alabama. EATON arrived at Mrs. CHARLTON's office at 1:36 p.m., March 26, 1965.

b7C

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SA [REDACTED] & SA [REDACTED] mjh b7C Date dictated 3/27/65

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3-29-651

The following information was obtained from the wallet of WILLIAM O. EATON:

- (1) One note containing the words JO ANNE SKATES, 1617 Birkley Avenue, Bessemer, Alabama
- (2) One note bearing the name FRANK ELLIOTT, 425-3827
- (3) Note - sold to JOHN POINTS, 1950 Ford  $\frac{1}{2}$  blue truck, 9-28-64, for \$85.00 signed W. O. EATON. Milner Exchange Hotel, 262-8371
- (4) Note bearing the name C. A. DOCKINS, 787-4388.
- (5) Note bearing the numbers 271

In addition to the above, Mr. EATON had, in his possession, the following described medicines:

Coumadin, 5 mg., prescription #4243, Dr. HUTTO

Prescription #93219, Dr. W. B. HUTTO

Nitroglycerine 1/150 gr. (0.4 mg.)

Butisol Sod,  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr., Prescription #42942, Dr. HUTTO.

On 3-26-65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SA [REDACTED] & SA [REDACTED] :ral 67C Date dictated 3-29-65



1Date March 27, 1965

At 11:05 a.m., March 26, 1965, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., 4005 - 40th Way, Fairfield, Alabama, was arrested at Highway 11, Bessemer, Alabama, while driving a two-tone green Chevrolet, bearing 1965 Alabama License Number 1B37863.

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7C

[REDACTED] b7A

At 11:09 a.m., WILKINS was placed in an automobile of the FBI and was driven to FBI Headquarters by SAs [REDACTED] b7C

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

3/26/65 Bessemer, Alabama

BH 44-1236

SAs [REDACTED]

File #

Date dictated 3/27/65

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date March 27, 1965

At 11:49 a.m., March 26, 1965, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., accompanied by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived in the Birmingham Office of the FBI. WILKINS was photographed and fingerprinted and departed the office in the company of Agents [REDACTED] 1:21 p.m. b7c

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SA [REDACTED] & SA [REDACTED] njh Date dictated 3/27/65 b7c

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Date March 27, 1965

[REDACTED]

b7c

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

Name	COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR. also known as Lee Wilkins
Birth	July 25, 1943 Birmingham, Alabama
Height	5'9"
Weight	195 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Dark brown
Build	Stocky
Complexion	Medium
Education	Fairfield High School, quit in 11th grade.
Occupation	Automobile mechanic - self-employed
Military Service	None

m 3/26/65 of Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
SA [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] mjh b7c  
SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/27/65

BH 44-1236

## (Description of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS continued)

Selective Service No. 1-122-43-393  
Registered with Selective  
Service Local Board 122,  
4604 1/2 Gary Avenue, Fairfield,  
Alabama.  
Registered July 31, 1961.

Parents COLLIE LEROY WILKINS - father,  
4005 - 40th Way;  
ALICE ELIZABETH WILKINS,  
Nee Austin - mother  
4005 - 40th Way  
Fairfield, Alabama

Brothers GLEN WILKINS, 4 years,  
at home  
JAMES WILKINS, 12 years,  
at home.

Sister MARIE WILKINS, 16 years,  
at home

Marital status Single - never married

Scars and marks Appendix scar on abdomen

Prior arrests 1961-62, Midfield, Alabama,  
Driving While Intoxicated;  
1963-64, Hueytown, Alabama;  
FFA;  
1964, Bessemer, Alabama,  
AIM (Assault With Intent to  
Murder)

Prior employments United Motor Freight,  
Birmingham, mechanic, 6 months,  
1964 until December 31, 1964;  
Don Drennan Motor Company,  
Birmingham, mechanic, 4 years,  
1960, early part of 1964



BH 44-1236

(Description of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS continued)

Characteristics

Sometimes wears glasses.

Vehicle owned

1946 Chevrolet pick-up  
truck, white, red, green,  
rusted.

KLAN ASSOCIATIONS

**EUGENE THOMAS**

According to [REDACTED]  
EUGENE THOMAS has been an active member of the Bessemer Klavern, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that EUGENE THOMAS is presently an active member of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK.

**WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON**

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON is a member at the present time of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK. b7D

**GARY THOMAS ROYE, JR.**

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that he knew GARY THOMAS ROYE, JR., as a member of the Eastview Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK, for several years.

**COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.**

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., is a member at the present time of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK.

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 26 1965  
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Belmont ✓  
Mr. Mohr ✓  
Mr. DeLoach ✓  
Mr. Casper ✓  
Mr. Callahan ✓  
Mr. Conrad ✓  
Mr. Felt ✓  
Mr. Gale ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Sullivan ✓  
Mr. Tavel ✓  
Mr. Trotter ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Miss Holmes ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

FBI SELMA ALA

6:04 PM CST 3/26/65 URGENT TAT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

CHANGED, EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;

VIOLA LIUZZO, <sup>also known as</sup> AKA MRS. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS, <sup>Civil Rights Election Laws</sup> GR - EL.

TITLE CHANGED TO REFLECT NAMES OF SUBJECTS FORMERLY CARRIED AS UNSUBS.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

END PAGE ONE

MR. LAMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

March 26, 1965

**MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO  
LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA  
MARCH 25, 1965**

The following are the most recent developments concerning the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, who was fatally shot as she drove in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

A complaint was filed today before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham charging William Orville Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., Eugene Thomas and Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., with violating Section 241, Title 18, United States Code, in that they conspired to intimidate and injure citizens in the free exercise of their Constitutional rights.

Eaton, Wilkins and Thomas were arrested by FBI Agents today and taken before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham who scheduled a preliminary hearing for Thursday, April 15, 1965, and remanded all three subjects to the custody of the United States Marshal in lieu of \$50,000 bond each. They are confined in the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham. Rowe will be taken before the Commissioner at a later time.

At the Commissioner's hearing, the subjects were represented by Matt Murphy, a Klan attorney.

All four of those charged in the complaint filed before the Commissioner are members of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

A Negro man was with Mrs. Liuzzo and reportedly was sitting close to her.

WLM/JWH/cac

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ENCLOSURE

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

44-28601-13

19 MAR 31 1965



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Birmingham, Alabama  
1 - USA, Montgomery, Alabama  
1 - Departmental Attorney,  
Montgomery, Alabama

Report of: SA [REDACTED] b7c  
Date: 3/30/65

Office: MOBILE, ALABAMA

Field Office File #: MO 44-1245

Bureau File #:

Title: EUGENE THOMAS;  
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;  
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM  
Character: LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis

On 3/19/65, victim LIUZZO appeared at Selma, Ala., and was closely associated with the civil rights activities relating to the march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

Her vehicle, a 1963 light blue Oldsmobile bearing Mich. License EJ9177 was being utilized at Selma and during the march as a transportation vehicle for civil rights workers.

On the evening of 3/25/65, at about 8:00 p.m., as victims LIUZZO and MOTON were enroute from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., to pick up another load of passengers to return them to Selma following march, a vehicle later determined to be a 1962 Chevrolet Impala driven by subject THOMAS and occupied by other three subjects, pulled alongside the LIUZZO vehicle and fired several shots from a .38 caliber revolver and a .22 caliber weapon into the LIUZZO vehicle.

As a result of this action Mrs. LIUZZO was killed. The auto she was driving, her 1963 Oldsmobile, ran off the road and victim MOTON succeeded in stopping the vehicle by turning off the ignition and placing foot on brake.

The shooting was reported to the FBI shortly after 9:30 p.m. CST, night of 3/25/65. Investigation immediately instituted, crime scene examined, witness interviewed, and vehicle examined.

Independently the Ala. State Troopers were notified by an unidentified truck driver that he observed what appeared to be a wreck off

MO 44-1245

Highway 80 east. State Troopers arrived at scene minutes after this report, observed LIUZZO appeared to have been shot, and secured the scene. State authorities performed autopsy, [REDACTED]. Joint examination of vehicle and crime scene performed by state authorities and FBI Agents.

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

On 3/26/65, this case was discussed with Acting Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR, at Montgomery, Ala., who authorized the filing of a complaint charging all subjects with violation of Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code. SA [REDACTED] on same date filed a complaint against all subjects before USC JAMES M. GUTTERY at Montgomery and warrant was issued for the arrest of all subjects.

b7C

[REDACTED]

- b7A

Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE has offered FBI full cooperation of state authorities in the investigation and advises that the State of Alabama is interested in pursuing any state criminal action that might arise from the investigation.

She stated that it was her impression that some of the workers of the SCIC were using Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile from the time she arrived in Selma, including taking it on the march from Selma to Montgomery, as Mrs. JACKSON had never seen her automobile. Mrs. JACKSON recalled that on Sunday, March 21, 1965, between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Mrs. LIUZZO was assigned to answering the telephone in Apartment 134 C, which is occupied by ERMATINE WILLIAMS, on which people in connection with the demonstrations were calling, possibly for instructions, but she is not certain what the calls were about.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that at approximately 6:30 to 7:00 a.m., on Wednesday, March 24, 1965, Mrs. LIUZZO left the apartment alone on foot stating she was going to Brown's Chapel to catch a bus to Montgomery, Alabama, to St. Jude's Hospital, where she intended to take part in the march from St. Jude's onto the Alabama State Capitol Building in Montgomery. She said Mrs. LIUZZO told her at that time that her automobile was in Montgomery all the while Mrs. LIUZZO was staying at Mrs. JACKSON's residence.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that she never again saw Mrs. LIUZZO after about 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 1965.

Mrs. JACKSON was shown a photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red in color; however, she stated she has never seen such an automobile in the vicinity of her apartment. She was also shown photographs of GARY THOMAS ROWE, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and stated that she had never seen any of these men to her knowledge.



MO 44-1245

JRC/mjr

1

The facts of this matter were brought to the attention of Acting Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR who authorized the filing of a complaint for violation of Section 241, Title 18, United States Code. Accordingly, a complaint was filed by SA SPENCER H. ROBB before United States Commissioner JAMES M. GUTTERY, Montgomery, Alabama, at 10:25 a.m., March 26, 1965. Warrants were issued the same date.

The complaint states that on or about March 25, 1965, at Lowndes County, in the Middle District of Alabama, did, commencing on or about January 1, 1965, and continuing to date of this complaint, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., EUGENE THOMAS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., within the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division, conspired together with each other and with other persons unknown to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of the following rights and privileges secured them by the Constitution and laws of the United States:

- 1) The right to peacefully assemble, publicly protest and petition the Governor of Alabama for redress of grievances on behalf of Negro citizens of Alabama free from arbitrary and oppressive interference from the State of Alabama.
- 2) The right to publicly protest unlawful deprivation of the right of Negroes of Alabama to register to vote and to vote for candidates for Federal offices.
- 3) The right to encourage and assist Negro citizens of Alabama in the exercise of their right to register to vote and to vote for candidates for Federal Offices.
- 4) The right to participate in a protest march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to present a petition to Governor of Alabama in Montgomery, Alabama, and to participate



MO 44-1245

JRC/mjr

2

in the carrying out of a proposed plan for such march pursuant to and under the terms of an order entered on March 17, 1965, by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama in the case of WILLIAMS versus WALLACE, No. 2181-N.

It was part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendant would harass, threaten, assault, shoot and kill persons who came to the area of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, to participate in and lend their support to a demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery pursuant to a plan approved by an order of the United States District Court, Middle District of Alabama on March 17, 1965, referred to above, and to harass, threaten, assault, shoot and kill Negro citizens of Alabama who participated in or supported the march, in violation of Section 241, Title 18, United States Code, and complainant stated that this complaint is based on information coming to the attention of Special Agent SPENCER ROBE of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, during the course of an official investigation.

MO 44-1245

JRC/gmh/mjr

1

By communication of March 26, 1965, the Birmingham Office advised that subject ROWE was taken into custody at 11:06 a.m., March 26, 1965; subject THOMAS was arrested at 11:08 a.m., at Lorene's Cafe, Bessemer, Alabama; subject WILKINS was arrested at 11:07 a.m., in his automobile on Highway 11 in Bessemer; and subject EATON was arrested at 11:16 a.m., March 26, 1965, at his residence on Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama.

All four subjects were arraigned before United States Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, at Birmingham, Alabama, on March 26, 1965. Subjects THOMAS, EATON and WILKINS were represented by Attorney MATT MURPHY. Bond for the subjects was fixed at \$50,000 each and they were remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal at Birmingham and committed to the Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Alabama.

Subjects THOMAS, EATON and ROWE were released on bond from the Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Alabama, at 8:19 p.m., March 26, 1965. Bond was arranged by Attorney MATT MURPHY. Bond had also been arranged for subject WILKINS; however, he was not released since the United States Marshal received a Probation Violator's Warrant on WILKINS in connection with a Federal Firearms violation.

MO 44-1245

JWB/jlw

1

On March 29, 1965, MURRAY PATTERSON, American Service Station, 351 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, Telephone Number 262-9402, advised Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] that he is the owner and manager of the service station. He stated that he was at the station on March 25, 1965, all day and that due to the march of civil rights demonstrators, did not attempt to conduct business that day inasmuch as the streets were blocked off and the crowds were too large.

PATTERSON advised that there were mass numbers of people in the vicinity of his gas station all day long and that he could not recall any four individuals who were there for any length of time. PATTERSON was shown photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, JAMES JESSE WILKINS, and RY THOMAS ROWE, JR. PATTERSON said he could not state that these four individuals were at his gas station on March 25, 1965, as the crowds were so large he could not recognize any particular person. b7c

PATTERSON further advised that RICHARD CASTLEBERRY is working part time at the gas station on March 25, 1965, it was his day off. He said that CASTLEBERRY lives on Inville Road, Montgomery, Alabama and works for the Seaboard Railroad Company.

On March 29, 1965, MONROE E. HORTON, Self-Park King Lot, Montgomery, Alabama, advised he was working that day on March 25, 1965, and stated that he recalled that cars were parked in his lot that day and inasmuch as this king lot is a self-park type place, he could not recall specific cars that were parked there. HORTON was specifically asked if he recalled a 1962 red and white, two door, hardtop Chevrolet in the lot on that date and HORTON lied that he could not recall make or color of any specific car in his lot.

On March 29, 1965, JAMES L. SPINES, employee, Self-Park King Lot, Monroe and Lawrence Streets, advised he did not recall seeing the red and white, two door, hardtop Chevrolet on that lot inasmuch as the cars are parked by the rows, and due to the large number of vehicles in the lot.



Volume Z

Viola Liuzzo

44-28601



BH 44-1236

6

The following description was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.
Residence	205 16th Place SW, Apartment 35A Birmingham, Alabama
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date and place of birth	August 15, 1930, Savannah, Georgia
Height	6'
Weight	220 lbs.
Build	Medium
Hair	Red
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Light
Social Security No.	<u>255-46-1902</u>
Employment	Presently unemployed
Military service	U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, SN 1044062; honorably discharged March 4, 1957
Marital status	Divorced

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Date 3/29/65

At approximately 4 p.m., March 26, 1965, CARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., was placed under arrest by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at a location on the outskirts of Birmingham in the vicinity of the southern city limits of Birmingham, Alabama. b7c

ROWE was advised that he did not have to furnish any information, that any information he furnished could be used against him in a court of law and that he could consult an attorney. He was informed that he would be transported immediately to the office of the U. S. Commissioner in the U. S. Post Office Building at Birmingham, Alabama, where bond would be set and that while at the U. S. Post Office Building he would be placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal. ROWE made no statement except to the effect that he would contact his attorney while at the office of the U. S. Marshal.

ROWE was immediately transported to the office of the U. S. Marshal at Birmingham, Alabama, and was afforded an immediate appearance before U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, it being noted that ROWE's attorney, MATT MURPHY, JR., was present.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SAs [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/29/65  
by [REDACTED] rjh

Date 3/26/65

1 At 1:48 p.m., March 26, 1965, a search warrant was served at the apartment of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Apartment Number 35A, 205 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, in the company of Special Agents [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] Special Agent [REDACTED] executed search warrant issued by the U. S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

The apartment was entered through the unlocked rear door, after permission to enter had been requested. It was determined upon entering the apartment that it was unoccupied. A copy of the search warrant and a list of items taken pursuant to the search warrant was left at the premises at 2:35 p.m.

The premises were searched by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and the search was completed at 2:35 p.m. March 26, 1965.

The following items were taken:

1) One metal container, army brown in color with the following markings " Do not use as food container, 900 cartridges 30 carbine ball M1 in 50 round cartons lot LC 13029."

Containing as follows:

A) 139 rounds of various caliber live ammunition and one spent .22 cartridge casing.

B) One 30 round capacity magazine for .30 caliber revolver.

C) One cloth bag containing 126 rounds various caliber live ammunition and one spent .38 cartridge casing. The bag is marked Cherry-Burrell Corp.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236  
by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/26/65 67C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date March 29, 1965

LOUISE O. CHARLTON, U. S. Commissioner, Birmingham, Alabama, issued the following search warrants on affidavits sworn to by SA MARVIN M. EUBANKS on March 26, 1965:

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18408, for the search of Apartment #35-A, 205 - 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, the residence of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18406, for the search of the residence and automobile of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18409, for the search of the residence and automobile of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 - 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Alabama.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18407, for the search of the residence and automobile of COLLEY LEROY WILKINS, JR., 4005 - 40th Way, Birmingham, Alabama.

On March 26, 1965, the above-described search warrant issued in Case #18406 was returned unexecuted.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [REDACTED] / hss b7c Date dictated 3/29/65

- 66 -



KLAN ASSOCIATIONS

**EUGENE THOMAS**

According to [REDACTED]  
EUGENE THOMAS has been an active member of the Bessemer Klavern, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that EUGENE THOMAS is presently an active member of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK.

**WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON**

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON is a member at the present time of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK. 67D

**GARY THOMAS ROBE, JR.**

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that he knew GARY THOMAS ROBE, JR., as a member of the Eastview Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK, for several years. —

**COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.**

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., is a member at the present time of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK.

Volume 3

Viola Liuzzo

44-28601



Volume 5  
Viola Liuzzo

44-28601

## Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 30, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen *AR*

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;  
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,  
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

According to Rowe, who is a member of the Eastview Klavern of the United Klans of America (UKA), Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins are members of the Bessemer Klavern of the UKA. Bureau files contain no additional information concerning Eaton. Bureau files contain the following additional information concerning Thomas, Wilkins and Rowe. Information in files being furnished to the Department.

EUGENE THOMAS:

On August 6, 1959, information was received that several individuals participated in an automobile caravan at which time crosses were burned in the Cahaba Heights section near Birmingham, Alabama. Thomas was identified as one of the individuals who was wearing a white hood and robe.

At a meeting of the UKA held November 17, 1961, Thomas was elected as an Assistant Klokian Chief of the Bessemer, Alabama, Klavern.

REC 61

44-28601-158

An informant advised that at a UKA meeting held in Fort Payne, Alabama, on 11/14/64, Thomas, Exalted Cyclops, Bessemer Klavern, UKA, announced from the chair that he had received information that a splinter Klan group in Jacksonville did not want the UKA to hold a rally in Jacksonville and that if UKA did this and if Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, spoke his life would be in danger.

6 APR 8 1965

On October 6, 1964, Thomas, in company with Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, UKA, was in attendance at the Alabama State Fair in Birmingham, Alabama, where the Klan had a booth.

Enclosures (5) *sent 3-30-65*

77 APR 14 1965 (8)

CONTINUED - Over



Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B 7A

FBI IDENTIFICATION RECORDS:

Thomas' FBI Identification Record reflects he was first arrested in 1945 on the charge of "drunk." He has five subsequent arrests for assault and battery, reckless driving and carrying concealed weapon.

Eaton's FBI Identification Record reflects he was arrested on 4/22/54, by the Alcohol Tobacco and Tax Division, Treasury Department, Birmingham, Alabama, for "VPL" distilling (probably violation of prohibition laws). He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years, suspended and placed on probation for two years.

Wilkins' FBI Identification Record indicates he was arrested in 1961 for "MP of P" (probably malicious destruction of property); was arrested in March, 1964, under the National Firearms Act for possession of a sawed-off shotgun and arrested in December, 1964, for "AIM" (probably assault with intent to maim). For violation of the National Firearms Act, he was sentenced to one year and one day which sentence was suspended and he was placed on one-year probation.

FBI

REC-3

Date: 3-29-65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATTENTION: Crime Records Division

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka - VICTIM;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM.  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS.

Enclosed are two copies of an article which appeared in "The Birmingham News" on March 28, 1965, quoting ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, KKK, and MATT H. MURPHY, Jr., Klan lawyer. In this article these individuals have claimed that the FBI was attempting to frame him, SHELTON, and that promises had been made to subject GARY THOMAS ROWE, Jr., and that ROWE had been unduly detained before being permitted to see his attorney. It should be noted that all of these allegations by SHELTON and MURPHY have been made to news media and not to the Birmingham Office of the FBI. In response to inquiries from news media regarding these allegations, I have answered all with a "no comment" reply, as is pointed out in the article itself.

It is interesting to note that MURPHY, according to the article, admits that he is a Klan member. Experience has shown that both of these individuals will stoop to any tactics to try to embarrass and humiliate the FBI, as well as to jeopardize captioned case.

"Any future accusations of these individuals or other Klan officials to the press will continue to be answered "no comment," as has been done in the past.

The above is for the Bureau's information.

3-Bureau (enc. 2)

2-Birmingham

EJI:rlg

(5)

ENCLOSURE

REC-3

3 MAR 31 1965

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

April 21, 1965

**GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION**

This matter relates to murder of civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3/25/65. Rowe, a Bureau informant, was present along with three others during murder. Data supplied by Rowe led to identity of other three subjects and circumstances surrounding Mrs. Liuzzo's death.

Case against Eugene Thomas and two other subjects being presented to State Grand Jury. Washington Post 4/21/65 reports Rowe testified that he was FBI informant and reporters were forcibly prevented from interviewing Rowe. The field has been instructed to submit details of any Agents' encounter with press and determine how press learned of Rowe's informant status.

JWH:vev

TELETYPE  
PAID LATER  
GWINN  
FACTS  
JCH

ENCLOSURE, 44-211-2001



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 23 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Belmont ✓  
Mr. Mohr ✓  
Mr. DeLoach ✓  
Mr. Casper ✓  
Mr. Callahan ✓  
Mr. Conrad ✓  
Mr. Felt ✓  
Mr. Gale ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Sullivan ✓  
Mr. Tavel ✓  
Mr. Trotter ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Miss Holmes ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

FBI BIRMGHAM

1120 AM CST URGENT 4-23-65 WCR

TO DIRECTOR, MILWAUKEE AND MOBILE

FROM BIRMINGHAM /44-1236/ /P/ 2P

EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.,  
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM; LEROY JEROME  
MOTEN - VICTIM. CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS  
CR, EL. OO, MOBILE.  
OFFICE OF ORIGIN

SPECIAL AGENT

SA LAWRENCE G. GETTINGS, BIRMINGHAM DIVISION, HAS BEEN ADVISED  
TO BE IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, APRIL THIRTIETH NEXT AS A NECESSARY  
WITNESS RE MILWAUKEE FILE THIRTYONE DASH TWO NINE SIX THREE, BUFILE  
THIRTYONE DASH EIGHT NINE TWO SIX ZERO, CASE CAPTIONED "JOHN EDWARD  
DAVIS, AKA; ROSE MARIE DAVIS, AKA; ERNEST HURD, ETAL - VICTIMS;  
WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT  
WSTA; HAR - PROSTITUTION; MISPRISION OF FELONY." AUSA FRANKLYN M.  
GIMBLE, EDW, MILWAUKEE, HAS ADVISED THESE CASES WILL BE TRIED IN  
FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT AT MILWAUKEE ON MAY FOUR AND FIVE NEXT.

IN REGARD TO CASE CAPTIONED "EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL; VIOLA GREGG  
LIUZZO; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS" SA GETTINGS ARRESTED EUGENE  
THOMAS, OBTAINED STATEMENT FROM THOMAS AT TIME OF ARREST, AND  
OBTAINED EVIDENCE FROM THE PERSON OF THOMAS IN SEARCH CONDUCTED  
END PAGE ONE

60 APR 30 1965

MR. DELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR



FBI

Date: 4/23/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: Director, FBI (9-NEW)

FROM: SAC, Philadelphia (9-NEW) (C)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; Mrs. WILLIAM J. FARRELL,  
nee FRANCES MELVIN - VICTIM  
EXTORTION

UNSUB; Mrs. WILLIAM P. FARRELL,  
nee HELEN ROMAYNE LIUZZO - VICTIM  
EXTORTION

UNSUB; PATRICK THOMAS LIUZZO -  
VICTIM  
EXTORTION

Re Detroit teletype to Philadelphia this date  
captioned "UNSUB; JOSEPH LIUZZO - VICTIM; CARMELLA LIUZZO -  
VICTIM; EXTORTION".

4 - Bureau

3 - 9-NEW

1 - 44-WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; EUGENE  
THOMAS ROWE; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS,  
JR.; MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO -  
VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mobile (44-WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; EUGENE  
THOMAS ROWE; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS,  
JR.; MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO -  
VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS)

6 - Philadelphia

2 - 9-NEW (UNSUB; Mrs. WILLIAM J. FARRELL - VICTIM;  
EXTORTION)

2 - 9-NEW (UNSUB; Mrs. WILLIAM P. FARRELL - VICTIM;  
EXTORTION)

2 - 9-NEW (UNSUB; PATRICK THOMAS LIUZZO - VICTIM;  
EXTORTION)

JWR:AMS (11)

MCT 19

44-28601-

NOT RECORDED

APR 27 1965

Sent

Per

Special Agent in Charge

cc: H

ORIGINAL FILED IN 9-43653-1

April 23, 1965

TELETYPE

URGENT

1 - Mr. Brown

TO SACS BIRMINGHAM  
MILWAUKEE  
MOBILE

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY  
WILKINS, JR., GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM  
LEROY JEROME MOTEN - VICTIM. CR. EL. OO, MOBILE.

REBHTEL FOUR DASH TWO THREE DASH SIX FIVE. BUREAU CONSIDERS  
IT PREFERABLE IF THERE IS CONFLICT IN TRIAL DATES THAT SA  
GETTINGS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TRIAL OF THIS CASE  
COUNTY ALABAMA. MILWAUKEE SHOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITY

USING ANOTHER WITNESS FOR TRIAL OF CASE CAPTIONED "JOHN EDWARD  
DAVIS, ET AL" AT MILWAUKEE. ALL OFFICES KEEP BUREAU PROMPTLY

ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER.

DMB:jad  
(3)

NOTE: Captioned case involves murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo,  
Lowndes County, Alabama, 3/25/65. Three subjects indicted by state  
Grand jury for first degree murder and according to state circuit  
court judge, trial will begin 5/5/65. BH advised SA Lawrence G.  
Gettings of BH Division has been advised to be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
as a necessary witness on 4/30/65 for trial of case captioned "John  
Edward Davis, Et al., WSTA; ITAR, Prostitution; Misprision of Felony."  
AUSA Gimble, Milwaukee, advises case will be tried 5/4-5/65 at  
Milwaukee. Trial of subjects in captioned case also scheduled for  
5/3/65 at Hayneville, Alabama. Bureau advice requested in which  
Gettings is to testify. MO attempting to definitely establish  
trial date for captioned case. Gettings needed to testify to arrest  
and search of subject Thomas and recovery of murder weapon.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

4 APR 1965 MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT



Volume 4

Viola Liuzzo

44-28601

## Memorandum

MAR 30 1965

TO : Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE:

JD:FMD:sw

DJ 144-2-470

# 1-085-20

FROM : John Doar, Acting  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights DivisionSUBJECT: William O. Eaton, Collie L. Wilkins, Jr.,  
Eugene Thomas, Gary T. Rowe, Jr., Subjects;  
Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, Victim.  
Conspiracy Against Rights, (Lowndes County, Ala.)  
CIVIL RIGHTS

WILLIAM O. EATON, JR.

This refers to the investigation currently being conducted in connection with the killing of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo near Lowndesboro, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965.

Please provide a summary of the available background information on the subjects recently arrested in connection with this case. This summary should include information concerning the past Ku Klux Klan activity, other anti-civil rights activity and any acts of violence or threatened violence engaged in in Alabama by these subjects or with which these subjects may be connected.

In addition please provide a summary of the available information on the activities of the Ku Klux Klan organizations in the Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham areas since 1960. This should include the identities of key Klavern level activists and higher level leaders. It should also include a chronology of violent anti-civil rights activities threatened or engaged in in Alabama by members of these Klaverns or with which they may be connected.

Also provide available background information on the most violent members of the Klaverns referred to in the preceding paragraph and on key state leaders. In this connection please include summaries of the available information on the following persons:

Robert Creel	Ronald Tidwell
Robert Thomas	Robert Shelton
Eugene Reeves	Matthew Murphy

Please furnish this information to Mr. St. John Barrett of my staff in Montgomery, Alabama, by Saturday, April 3, 1965.

MCT-43

REC-44

71 APR 5 1965



1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Mohr

April 1, 1965

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Baumgardner  
1 - Mr. Gray

Mr. John Doar  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

Director, FBI

44-28101 - 111  
EUGENE THOMAS,  
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,  
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.,  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

Reference is made to your letter of March 30, 1965, requesting background information on the subjects recently arrested in this case, a summary of the activities of Klan organizations in the Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama, areas since 1960 and information concerning Klan activists and leaders.

As you are aware, background information on the subjects in this case has been furnished to you by my letter of March 30, 1965.

With regard to your request for a summary of available information on the activities since 1960 of Klan organizations in Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham, this material is already in your possession. Please refer to FBI investigative reports prepared by our Birmingham and Mobile Office, furnished to you regularly in the cases entitled "United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan"; "U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc."; and "Dixie Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc." These reports prepared contemporaneously with the events, provide a chronology of activities of these Klan organizations as well as information concerning their leaders and activists.

In regard to your request for available background information on the individuals mentioned in your letter, reports and memoranda are already available to you in the cases entitled,

and "Robert Milton Creel, Racial Matters." In accordance with your request, available background information concerning Eugene Reeves, Ronald Tidwell and Matthew Murphy will be furnished by April 3, 1965, to Mr. St. John Barrett of your staff at Montgomery, Alabama.

AWG:jaw (10)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

1 - Room  
1 - Belmont  
1 - Mohr  
1 - DeLoach  
1 - Rosen  
1 - Sullivan  
1 - Tavel  
1 - Trotter  
1 - Tele. Room  
1 - Mr. Doar  
1 - Mr. Casper  
1 - Mr. Callahan  
1 - Mr. Conrad  
1 - Mr. Felt  
1 - Mr. Gale  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Tavel  
1 - Mr. Trotter  
1 - Mr. Tele. Room  
1 - Mr. Holmes  
1 - Mr. Gandy

77 APR 12 1965

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. John Doar

NOTE:

See memorandum Baumgardner to Sullivan dated 3/31/65, captioned "Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton, Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr.; Viola Liuzzo - Victim, Civil Rights; Election Laws," prepared by ANG:jas.

Volume 6  
Viola Liuzzo

44-28601



## Memorandum

: Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 4, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen *Roh*SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLA LUIZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. Callahan  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holmes  
Miss Gandy

Inspector Joseph Sullivan in Selma, Alabama, has telephonically advised that the Circuit Solicitor, Arthur Gamble, has requested a verification or documentation of payments which have been made to the informant (Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr.) over a period of years. According to Sullivan, the Solicitor desires to have some written record if possible to support testimony of Agents that payments had been made to this informant for a substantial period of time.

It should be noted that the Department had previously instructed SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office that he was not to furnish any information whatsoever from the official files or records of the office in connection with his appearance at the trial.

ACTION TAKEN:

This matter is being taken up with the Civil Rights Division of the Department for a determination as to what action they desire be pursued concerning the request of the Circuit Solicitor to support the testimony of the Agents that payments have been made to this informant for a substantial period of time.

CLM/cac  
(9)

REC-26

ST-108

18 MAY 6 1965

79 MAY 11 1965

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 137



II WASH DC

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 3 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

II MOBILE

12 PM CST URGENT

5/3/65

VFP

1 DIRECTOR

101 MOBILE /44-1245/

IGENE THOMAS, ETAL; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL-VICTIM.

Section Laws

TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER AGAINST SUBJECT COLLIE WILKINS  
BEGAN MAY THREE, INSTANT, AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA. TWO MOTIONS  
WERE FILED BY DEFENSE COUNSEL MATT MURPHY AND WERE RULED ON  
BY COURT, THE FIRST CONTESTING THE JUSTICE OF THE COURT  
BECAUSE OF PUBLICITY ATTENDANT TO ANNOUNCEMENT ON SUBJECTS  
ARREST BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON WAS DENIED. A SECOND MOTION TO  
INTERVIEW STATE WITNESSES GARY THOMAS ROVE AND LEROY MOTON  
WAS GRANTED.

MURPHY TALKED TO BOTH ROVE AND MOTON. HE WAS ASSISTED  
BY RALPH ROTON, THE PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN IN ALABAMA FOR THE  
UNITED KLANS. ROTON HANDLED TAPE RECORDING EQUIPMENT. THE  
RESULTS OF ROVE'S INTERVIEW HAVE BEEN FURNISHED IN SEPARATE  
PAGE ONE .....

RE MAY 10 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

REC-30

MAY 5 1965

44-28601-289

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

12:30 PM EST URGENT 4-26-65 AJG

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, TAMPA AND MIAMI

FROM SAVANNAH 261639

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL, VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL-VICTIMS

ER; EL.

DAVID RICH

ELECTION

ON APRIL 5 LAST

ADVISED THAT ON

SOUTH CAROLINA, GRAND DRAGON BOB

SCOGGINS EXHIBITED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF ROWE, FBI INFORMANT IN THE SELMA, ALABAMA, MURDER AND INSTRUCTED ALL GRAND OFFICERS, EXALTED CYCLOPS AND TITANS AND INVESTIGATORS OF THE KLAN TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HIM. IF THIS INDIVIDUAL IS LOCATED THE GRAND DRAGON IS TO BE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.

INFORMANT ADVISED THAT THIS MEANT THAT "THE GUN IS OUT FOR HIM" AS AN "FBI FINK" AND THAT HE WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF FOR "LYING." HE ALSO ADVISED THAT THE KLAN IS TRYING TO LOCATE FAMILY OF ROWE, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THEY WANTED HIS FAMILY BUT PROBABLY WANTED TO HARASS THEM TO FIND OUT WHERE ROWE IS LOCATED. ALL SOUTHERN OFFICES ADVISED BY LHM. LETTER HEAD MEMORANDUM.

RECEIVED: 1:47 PM LRC

REC-39

EX-110

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

CC-MR. ROSEN

25 MAY 5 1965

69 MAY 11 1965

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

BEC-50

EX 109

**May 4, 1965**

44-28601-287

6-1

Honorable Frank J. Lausche  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

**My dear Senator:**

Your note of April 29th, with enclosures, has been received, and I appreciate your bringing this to my attention.

Although I would like to be of service to your constituent I am not in a position to comment in any manner as he has suggested inasmuch as one of the individuals involved in the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo went on trial May 3rd and prosecution of the others is to follow. I can assure you, however, that the person referred to was not a Special Agent of the FBI, and I trust your constituent will understand why it is not within our prerogative to comment on this case.

Sincerely yours,

1941 - 1945

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosures (3)  
1 - Mr. Rosen - Enclosures (3)

NOTE: Constituent [redacted] has no record in Bufiles. The Ohio enclosures were a copy of [redacted] letter to Senator Lausche and a copy of his answer to [redacted] over the signature of his Administrative Assistant Ray M. White. The individual to whom [redacted] refers is Gary Thomas Rowe, and informant who was present during the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker in Alabama. This response was discussed with the Civil Rights Section of the General Investigative Division. We have had cordial relations with Senator Lausche.

KLS:dii (7)

12 1955

TELETYPE UNIT ☐



# Alabama Grand Jury Readies Report On Night Rider Slaying

NEVILLE, Ala. — A jury reports its findings in the investigation of the

slaying of a 39-year-old civil rights worker. Lowndes County jury of

the men completed its investigation yesterday into the slaying of Mrs. Viola

of Detroit and of several cases. It reportedly recommended some indictments, but nature will not be known after the formal report and those indicted have been into custody.

Among those questioned by the jury was Gary Thomas Rowe

34-year-old Birmingham who was arrested by federal authorities after the Liuzzo slaying but later released.

Rowe was one of four Ku Klux Klan members arrested on federal civil rights charges March 25 day after Mrs. Liuzzo was shot to death in her car in Lowndesboro. A federal

jury meeting in Montgomery earlier this month indicted the other three men on charges of conspiring to injure King in the exercise of their constitutional rights.

The indicted were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employee of U.S. Steel at Bessemer; Collie Leroy Thomas Jr., 21, of Fairfield, a self-employed mechanic; and Orville Eaton, 41, also of Bessemer, a retired steel worker.

Rowe was not indicted and the charges against him subsequently dismissed. The New York Times said Rowe had been working as an undercover agent for the FBI, and state officials refused to comment on the report.

Meanwhile, the president of the Bogalusa, La., Civic and League—which claims it is for the town's Negroes—

was arrested on a charge of issuing a worthless \$15 check.

A. Z. Young was accused in a warrant of signing a check dated April 10 issued to Ward's Repair Shop, a Bogalusa television store owned by a white man.

City Judge A. J. Jones signed the warrant and set an April 26 hearing. Young was released on \$500 bail.

In Nampa, Idaho, the Negro who served a one-day term as Grand Titan of the Idaho Ku Klux Klan in February was reported missing. His wife, Mrs. Emmaline Bellesen, told Nampa police her husband, Paul Bellesen, left home in the family

car and had not returned.

Later, one of Bellesen's former employees in a janitor service, Larry Brennan, told police he saw Bellesen in San Francisco International Airport. He said Bellesen told him, "I'm just sort of taking a vacation and I don't want anybody to know you saw me."

In Boston, civil rights leaders went ahead with plans for a massive parade and rally Friday with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as the chief speaker. The parade and rally are to protest racial imbalance in schools and sub-standard housing.

Mayor John F. Collins took issue with a statement by the Rev. Virgil Wood, head of the

Boston branch of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, that the marchers would demonstrate in front of city hall.

Wood said Selma officials didn't want demonstrations either, but they were held nevertheless. "Boston is no different from Selma," he said. "If

we choose to do it, we will do it."

Collins said that was unreasonable after the city had freely granted permits for the parade through the principal downtown business streets, plus the use of Parkman bandstand on Boston Common for the rally.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6a Clearwater Sun  
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 4/22/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: James L. Beardslaw

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28001-54



# FBI Informer No Surprise To Klan

By TOM CHASE  
ANTA, Ga. (AP) — Top  
ix Klansmen say they are  
rised by FBI claims the  
orders have been infil-  
but they say government  
should spend more time  
Communists.

in Craig, Georgia grand  
of the United Klans of  
ra, Knights of the Ku  
Klan, said the case of Gar-  
omas Rowe Jr. of Brim-  
n was nothing new.

's one of the men who  
been playing a dual role  
long," said Craig, 36,  
sday night.

was talking to Shelton  
that over the weekend,"  
d. "Shelton told me he has  
it for several years."

g referred to Robert M.  
n of Tuscaloosa, Ala., im-  
wizard of the United  
of America and, as such,  
all head of several state  
s. Shelton could not be  
ed for comment.

**Reported Tipster**  
e was reported to be the  
who provided the FBI  
information which resulted  
mp arrests in the slaying  
s. Luzzo, the Detroit  
r of five killed March 25  
the civil rights march  
Selma to Montgomery.

in federal and Alabama  
cities have declined com-  
on the Rowe report.

ually," said Craig, "we  
that some of the crimes  
ed to the KKK have been  
by FBI informers to create  
le of hatred against the  
ization when true klans-  
were not involved."

suggested the House Un-  
ican Activities Committee  
tigate what he called the  
nistic element involved  
e Selma to Montgomery  
h rather than starting a  
of the KKK.

James R. Venable of Stone  
Mountain, Ga., imperial wizard  
of the National Knights of the  
Ku Klux Klan Inc., said the FBI  
ought to be using its agents "in  
the Communist field rather than  
trying to catch KKKs."

At the same time, Venable  
said, "there has never been any  
member of the KKK charged  
with selling any secrets of the  
U.S. government or with insur-  
rection nor has there been one  
who hesitated when asked to  
serve in the military."

Just to be on the safe side,  
Venable said, "we are setting  
traps for pimps and infiltrators.  
We are setting more traps than  
the FBI."

## Nothing To Hide

Asked if he knew of federal  
agents in his organizations, he  
said, "I don't know of any, but  
I'm sure we've got them. We  
have nothing secret to hide. Our  
tactics are to use the ballot box  
to win this race war."

Craig said he would welcome  
FBI agents to his organization  
"if they could qualify. But we  
don't want them coming in as  
druggists or mechanics or im-  
posters of any kind."

"E. McDaniel, grand dragon  
of the United Klans of America  
in Mississippi, declined com-  
ment about the FBI when  
reached at his home in Natchez.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover  
often has said the bureau has  
the klan virtually wired for  
sound with informants.

"At times I think we know  
more about what the Klan is  
doing than we know about what  
some divisions in the Justice  
Department are doing," Atty.  
Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach  
quipped recently in Washington.

(Indicate page, name of  
newspaper, city and state.)

6a The Clearwater Sun  
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 4/22/65

Edition:

Author: Tom Chase

Editor: James L. Beardsley

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-22601 211

ENCLOSURE



**GARY THOMAS ROWE**

... reported tipster.

about it, a potential informant may often be brought around with the oblique reminder that he may, one day, desire leniency for crimes in which he has become involved.

The Times report said that although the details of Rowe's story are now known, the circumstances indicate he was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Luzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting. Three men who were with Rowe have been indicted on federal charges of conspiracy to violate the constitutional rights of civil rights demonstrators. Charges against Rowe were dropped and he was released, a free man.

44-21601-

**ENCLOSURE**

# FBI Undercover Agent?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Money, is duty. A favor in court, are the persuasions the es with Ku Klux Klans- Communists and gang- when it needs information a come only from the in-

m — and usually only for : jobs — do FBI agents lves become members of in, the party, or the syn-

ently — and not only for - jobs but often for years inuing information — in- ls already in the organ- : are tapped.

ETIMES — and this is difficult — individuals on nges or totally outside, he Klan, are contacted ged to join up and start ng out information.

ry Thomas Rowe was, as en reported, the tipster i the FBI to the alleged of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in ia, he did so as a Klans- nd not as a member of l.

term "undercover



agent," which has been applied to Rowe and others, can be confusing.

It sometimes means a trained FBI agent who conceals his identity and pretends to be something else.

But the term also is loosely applied to informers — men and women who are not in the FBI but who, for some inducement, regularly supply information to the government men.

FBI DIRECTOR J. Edgar Hoover has often said the bureau has the Klan virtually wired for sound with informants.

"At times," Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach quipped recently, "I think we know more about what the Klan is doing than we know about what some divisions in the Justice Department are doing."

The FBI refused to discuss any aspect of the Liuzzo case and issued a terse "no com-

ment" when asked about a New York Times report that Rowe had been its undercover man in the case.

It is commonly known, however, that the FBI will pay for information, strictly on a cash-on-delivery basis. One Justice Department source says as much as \$5,000 or \$10,000 may be paid for a particularly important piece of information.

But in the day-to-day routine of law enforcement, it's more likely that the payment will only cover a man's expenses or give him a little extra pocket money.

THE AMOUNT SPENT BY Hoover's men for information each year does not appear in the FBI appropriation chart. But experts describe it as "pretty small potatoes."

Money is not the only inducement offered by FBI men seeking information. Much has been gained from a private, discreet discussion of a man's duty to his country and the need for law and order.

And while the FBI won't talk

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

15 The St. Petersburg Times  
St. Petersburg, Fla

Date: 4/23/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland Anderson

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28801 2713  
ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# **Liuzzo Case 'Suspect'** **Apparently FBI Agent**

Special To The Times  
From The New York Times

HAYNESVILLE, Ala. — Gary Rowe, one of the four men originally accused by federal officers in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, emerged yesterday as an apparent undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Rowe testified for about two hours yesterday afternoon before a Grand Jury which is investigating the slaying of the Detroit civil rights worker on March 25.

The Grand Jury is expected to report its decision before noon today.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11a The St. Petersburg  
Times  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Date: 4/21/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland Anderson

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-38661

271



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Man Arrested In Alabama Killing Proves FBI Agent

NEW YORK (AP) — Gary T. Rowe, one of the four men jointly arrested by federal agents in the slaying of Mrs. Liuzzo in Alabama, has been identified as an undercover agent for the FBI, the New York Times said today.

Rowe, 34, of Birmingham, was arrested yesterday at Hayneville, Ala., before the Lowndes County grand jury investigating the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo, a 41-year-old Detroit mother. The government later dropped charges against Rowe and he was freed.

Liuzzo was slain in a shooting shortly after she participated in the March 25 Selma to

Montgomery civil rights march.

The Times said in a dispatch from Hayneville that although the details of Rowe's story are not known, the circumstances indicate he was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting.

The three other men taken into custody the same day Rowe was arrested — March 26 — have been indicted in Montgomery on federal charges of conspiring to violate the constitutional rights of demonstrators. President Johnson, in announcing their arrests, described them as members of the Ku Klux Klan.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11b Clearwater Sun  
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 4/21/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: James L. Deardsle

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

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Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-286-61  
ENCLOSURE

271

# Klansman Released in Liuzzo Slaying Apparently Worked Secretly for FBI

By Jack Nelson  
Los Angeles Times

RAYNEVILLE, Ala., April 4—A Ku Klux Klansman who apparently witnessed the slaying of Viola Liuzzo of Detroit while he was working undercover for the FBI, testified before the Lowndes County grand jury today.

Henry T. Rowe Jr., 34, brought under a heavy FBI guard, testified for two hours before the jury, and then was whisked out of the County by agents who used force to keep a reporter from trying to interview him.

Rowe was armed with a pistol in a holster.

He and three other Klansmen were arrested in the March 25 killing and booked on Federal charges of violating Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights. But the Justice Department later dropped the charges against Rowe. It has declined to say why.

Eugene Thomas, 42, Fairfield steelworker; William O. Moton, 41, a former steelworker from Bessemer, and Willie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, an airfield auto mechanic, are each under \$50,000 bond each on the Federal charges.

Mrs. Liuzzo, a white civil rights demonstrator, was killed by bullets fired from a

passing car as she drove from Selma to Montgomery a few hours after the March 25 march to the State Capitol.

With her was a 19-year-old Negro, Leroy Moton, who works for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Moton, who escaped injury, also testified before the jury today.

The arrest of the Klansmen was announced the day after the slaying. Rowe's role as an undercover informant apparently accounted for the speed. He reportedly called the FBI within four hours—as soon as he could slip away.

Rowe reportedly told the FBI he was sitting in the back seat of the car from which the

bullets were fired. A reliable source said Rowe contended the shooting happened quickly and on the spur of the moment and he was helpless to interfere.

Rowe has been supplying the FBI with information on Klan activities since 1960, according to the source.

Rowe and the three defendants were listed as members of the United Klans of America, the Nation's largest Klan with an estimated membership of 5000.

As Rowe emerged from the jury room today, a reporter tried to follow him but was shouldered to the wall by an FBI agent. The reporter continued down the hallway but another agent blocked the exit.

MONI  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The Washington Post and Times Herald A-3  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Baltimore Sun \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 4/21/68

ENCLOSURE

Continued from Page 1

arrests because cars of all known Ku Klux Klansmen in the area had been under surveillance.

The state grand jury of 18 white men heard evidence on the Liuzzo case during the entire day yesterday.

Testimony was also given by Leroy Moton, 19, the Negro civil rights worker for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who was in the car with Mrs. Liuzzo when she was shot.

FBI agents were conspicuous for their absence during the morning, as state and county prosecutors apparently hoped to make a case without associating the federal government with the charges against the accused persons.

The first indication that Rowe might be an informant came when he was unexplainedly brought to the federal arraignment by FBI agents three hours after the other three defendants had arrived.

# The Corpus Christi Times

Published every week-day afternoon  
by the Call-Times Publishing Co.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1965

Second class postage paid  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Please Read

# Man Accused in Liuzzo Death Apparently Spy for FBI

By FRED P. GRAHAM

© New York Times News Service

HAYNESVILLE, Ala. — Gary T. Rowe, one of the four men originally accused by federal officers in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, emerged today as an apparent undercover agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Rowe, 34, testified for about 90 hours yesterday afternoon

before a Lowndes County grand jury which is investigating the killing of the Detroit civil rights worker on March 25.

The grand jury is expected to report its decision today.

Under elaborate cloak-and-dagger security measures by the FBI, Rowe slipped into the grand jury room in the Lowndes County courthouse at 7 p.m.

Two hours later, reporters

spotted him as he and two FBI special agents dashed for the back door of the courthouse.

An FBI man blocked the door as the sunburned, red-haired Birmingham man sped away in the back seat of a light green car, accompanied by two FBI men.

Rowe was said to have worn what appeared to be a .38-caliber revolver in a hip holster as he

entered the grand jury room, and was seen wearing it as he climbed into the car.

It was later learned from reliable sources here that Rowe has been a paid informant of the FBI for the past six years.

It was reported that Rowe said he had been paid by the FBI since 1959 for reporting on Ku Klux Klan activities.

On March 25, Rowe and Eu-

gene Thomas, 43, and William O. Eaton, 41, both of Bessemer, Ala., and Collie Le Roy Wilkins Jr., 21, of Fairfield, Ala., were arrested by FBI agents and charged with conspiring to violate Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights in the killing. Since murder is not a federal crime, this was the only charge that could be placed against the men.

Last week, when a federal

grand jury indicted the other three men but did not indict Rowe, reports began to circulate that he was an undercover informant. Federal charges against Rowe were dropped and he was freed.

It is reported that Rowe telephoned the FBI before he left for Selma the night of the killing, and that he called them after he returned to Birmingham.

Indications are that Rowe was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting.

Rowe's testimony was not disclosed.

After President Johnson announced the arrests in a telecast on March 26, it had been speculated that FBI agents had been able to make such speedy

See FBI, Page 1

44-25601 259

ENCLOSURE



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Charges Against One of Four Accused Ku Kluxers Dropped

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Justice Department dropped charges yesterday against a Birmingham man who was arrested within hours after the March 25 civil rights slaying of a Detroit housewife.

In order dismissing a conspiracy charge against Gary Rowe Jr., 35, was decided by U.S. Commissioner M. Guttery. A motion to dismiss the charge came from Asst. U.S. J. O. Sentell.

In Washington, a Justice Department spokesman said dismissal of the charge was a tactical action since the grand jury failed to indict Rowe. The spokesman did not comment.

Rowe was arrested with three other Birmingham area men—described by President Johnson as being members of the Ku Klux Klan—by FBI agents the day after Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, 39, was shot to death from ambush near Lowndesboro, Ala.

The shooting occurred on the highway being used by civil rights marchers for their Selma-to-Montgomery march to dramatize a voter registration campaign.

Mrs. Liuzzo, one of many out-of-state volunteers drawn to the march, had been shuttling demonstrators from Selma to the state capital. She was slain shortly after she had left a Selma church by car. A Negro

youth in the vehicle escaped injury.

The other men arrested after her death were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employe of U.S. Steel at Bessemer; Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, a self-employed mechanic of Fairfield; and William Orville Eaton, 41, a retired steel worker, also of Bessemer.

A federal grand jury indicted Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins April 6 on charges of violating the constitutional rights of civil rights demonstrators. Rowe was not indicted, and dismissal of the original charges against him thus came as no surprise.

The three indicted men are free on bonds of \$50,000 each.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3-B The Tampa Tribune  
Tampa, Florida

Date: April 15, 1965

Edition:

Author:

Editor: James A. Clendinen

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601-219  
ENCLOSURE

# Klansman Depicted As BI Informant

Special To The Times  
From The Los Angeles Times

ANTA — A Ku Klux  
man who was arrested in  
ambush slaying of Mrs. Vi-  
luzzo, a white civil rights  
nstrator from Detroit, ap-  
ly has turned state's ev-

ications are he was an FBI  
niant even before the mur-

leral charges against the  
man, Gary Tommy Rowe  
34, were dropped but a  
jury indicted three of his  
v Klansmen.

AN ATTORNEY Matt H.  
hy Jr. of Birmingham, who  
sented all four of the de-  
nts, confirmed yesterday  
he had been unable to lo-  
Rowe since the charges  
dropped.

phy said it "may have  
true" that Rowe was an  
informant prior to the Li-  
case, but he warned "this  
may backfire in more  
than one. There are such  
as counterspies."

e attorney, predicting the  
will be "tremendously em-  
assing to the federal gov-  
ent," said he plans to file  
it of habeas corpus to re-  
the FBI to reveal "where  
are detaining my client."  
rphy was listed as attorney  
all four Klansmen when they  
arrested on March 27, the  
after the killing. Dismissal  
he complaint against Rowe  
arently came as a surprise  
lurphy.

ABLER, Murphy had ac-  
ed the FBI of trying to bribe  
ve to give information.



—AP Wirephoto

## Rowe Hides Face At Birmingham Hearing

The four Klansmen were  
charged with violating Mrs. Li-  
uzzo's civil rights. The Justice  
Department declined to explain  
why it withdrew the complaint  
against Rowe.

Eugene Thomas, 42, steel-  
worker of Fairfield; William Or-  
vill Eaton, 41, former steelwork-  
er of Bessemer, and Collie Le-  
roy Wilkins Jr., 21, auto me-  
chanic of Fairfield, are free un-  
der \$50,000 bond each on the  
charges.

When Rowe was arrested fed-  
eral officials told the press the  
Klansman was "unemployed."

Alabama Atty. Gen. Richmond  
Flowers has said he will ask  
the Lowndes County grand jury,  
which convenes Monday, to re-  
turn murder indictments in the  
case. He indicated only three  
indictments would be sought.

ANY LINKS between Rowe  
and the FBI prior to the Liuzzo  
killing would add another  
strange twist to an already un-  
usual and controversial case.

The day after the murder,  
President Johnson, in an unpre-  
cedented television address, an-  
nounced the four arrests, identi-  
fied the defendants as Klans-  
men, and bitterly denounced  
the "hooded society of bigots."

To some this sounded like the  
President had prejudged the  
guilt of the defendants before  
an audience of millions. Klan  
leaders complained bitterly and  
the American Civil Liberties  
Union said the President's an-  
nouncement was incompatible  
with a system of justice that  
presumes the defendant inno-  
cent until proven guilty.

(Indicate page, name of  
newspaper, city and state.)

20 St. Petersburg Times  
St. Petersburg, Fla

Date: April 18, 1965  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor: Courtland Anderson  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Tampa  
☐ Being Investigated

44-28601-249  
ENCLOSURE

Volume 7

Viola Liuzzo

44-28601



Volume 8

Viola Liuzzo

44-28601



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 5/6/65

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Tolson  
Belmont  
Mohr  
DeLoach  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

Inspector Joseph Sullivan has advised that the defense rested its case at 11:30 a. m. Alabama time (1:30 p. m. Washington time) today. The defense called only six witnesses. Closing arguments and the charge to the jury are scheduled to be given this afternoon.

Robert Shelton, Robert Thomas and Eugene Reeves and Mildred Thomas were called as witnesses by the defense. These four all testified that they were present with Attorney Matt Murphy when the Bureau's informant, Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., made the statement to Murphy that he had been offered a farm in Minnesota by FBI Agents. It should be noted that Rowe had stated yesterday on the stand that the idea of the farm was concocted by Attorney Murphy.

Mildred Thomas was also asked if Rowe had not made the statement to her that he was a card-carrying member of the Communist Party. The prosecutor objected and the objection was upheld.

Lorene Frederick testified for the defense that the defendant, Collie LeRoy Wilkins, as well as Rowe, Thomas and Eaton, were in her restaurant before 10:00 p. m. on the night of March 25, 1965, the night of the killing. On cross examination she admitted that she had not clocked the individuals into the restaurant and that it could have been after 10:00 p. m. when she saw them in her place.

Another witness called by the defense was a Mr. Powell. He was asked if Rowe, the Bureau informant, had assaulted him. The prosecutor objected to this and the objection was upheld. MAY 11 1965

ACTION: This is being closely followed and Inspector Sullivan will advise us of further developments in the trial.

CLM:mpd (7)

MAY 12 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAY 4 1965  
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FBI MOBILE

628 PM CST URGENT 5/4/65 VFP  
TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM  
FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO-VICTIM ET AL.

CR EL.

Section Laws

REMOTEL THIS DATE, SUMMARIZING TRIAL IN THE CAPTIONED  
MATTER AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA.

DURING THE AFTERNOON OF MAY FOUR, INSTANT, LEROY JEROME  
MOTON TESTIFIED AS TO THE LIUZZO KILLING, DR. PAUL SHOFFEITT  
TESTIFIED CONCERNING THE AUTOPSY HE PERFORMED, AND THE DIRECT  
EXAMINATION OF GARY THOMAS ROWE WAS COMPLETED. CROSS EXAMINATION  
OF ROWE SCHEDULED FOR OPENING OF COURT, NINE AM, MAY FIVE,  
NEXT.

NO INCIDENTS WERE OBSERVED IN THE TRIAL OR ELSEWHERE. THE  
DEFENSE SERVED A SUBPOENA ON COL. AL LINGO, AHP, TO PRODUCE THE  
LIUZZO CAR AND ITS CONTENTS. THESE ITEMS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO  
HAYNEVILLE AND LOCKED UP AS EVIDENCE.

THE THEME OF DEFENSE COUNSEL MATT MURPHY-S CROSS EXAMINATION

END PAGE ONE

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

May 7, 1965  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This matter relates to murder of  
civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo,  
between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama,  
on 3-25-65.

Trial of subject Collie Leroy  
Wilkins on murder charge began in State  
Court at Hayneville, Alabama, on 5-3-65.

Gary Thomas Rowe is our informant  
and key prosecution witness.

*Handwritten initials: RJD:hw*

*Handwritten signature: [illegible]*  
*Handwritten initials: [illegible]*  
COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAY 7 1965

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

736 PM CST 5/7/65 URGENT CCM

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (44-1245)

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS.

Civil Rights

CR, ET.

Section 1983

REMYTELS INSTANT CONCERNING TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER AT  
HAYNEVILLE, ALA.

AT FOUR ZERO FIVE P.M., TODAY, JUDGE T. WERTH THAGGARD  
DECLARED A MISTRIAL IN INSTANT MATTER. HE HAD CALLED THE JURY  
IN FROM ITS DELIBERATIONS AT FOUR P.M., AND QUESTIONED THE JURY  
FOREMAN AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A DECISION. THE  
FOREMAN STATED IT STOOD THE SAME AS IT HAD RIGHT AFTER THEY  
STARTED DELIBERATIONS AT THREE FORTY P.M, MAY FIVE, LAST.  
THE JUDGE OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM ALL ATTORNEYS INVOLVED TO  
QUESTION THE FOREMAN AS TO THE STATUS. THE CONSENT WAS GIVEN  
AND THE FOREMAN STATED THE VOTE WAS TEN TO TWO IN FAVOR OF  
CONVICTION. HE SAID IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT NONE OF THOSE  
ON EITHER SIDE WOULD CHANGE. THE JUDGE ASKED JURY COLLECTIVELY  
IF IT WAS THEIR OPINION AND ALL NODDED THEIR HEADS. HE  
THEN THANKED THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE AND DECLARED A MISTRIAL.

EX 109

11 MAY 12 1965

END PAGE ONE

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR



PAGE TWO

COUNTY SOLICITOR CARLTON PERDUE AND CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR., BOTH ADVISED THEY WERE HEARTENED BY TEN TO TWO IN FAVOR OF CONVICTION AND IN VIEW OF GRAND JURY SEEING FIT TO INDICT SUBJECT AND PRESENT TRIAL ENDING IN TEN TO TWO MISTRIAL, THEY SAID THEY HAD EVERY INTENTION OF PRESENTING THE CASE FOR TRIAL, BUT NO DATE COULD BE SET AT THIS TIME.

JUDGE T. WERTH THAGGARD RECESSED WITHOUT SETTING ANY DATE FOR CONTINUANCE OR NEW TRIALS.

OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM DEFENSE ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY HELD AN IMPROMPTU CONFERENCE FOR NEWSMEN AND TV CAMERAS AND ADVISED HE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO FIGHT THIS CASE AND HE HAD BUILT HIS CASE THIS TIME ON CROSS EXAMINATION AND HAD DONE A GOOD JOB, BUT WOULD RETURN NEXT TIME AND BLOW STATE'S CASE OUT OF THE WATER. HE UNLOOSED A TIRADE AGAINST FEDERAL INTERVENTION AND THE ~~QUOTE~~ "NIGGERS UNQUOTE AND JEWS AND LIBERAL LEFT WING GROUPS.

JOE ZELLNER, ASSOCIATED PRESS, MONTGOMERY, ALA., INTERVIEWED JURORS DAN LEE AND BILLY R. CHEATHAM FOLLOWING TRIAL. THESE MEN ADVISED THEY HAD VOTED AGAINST CONVICTION. CHEATHAM STATED

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

QUOTE "I DID NOT ACCEPT ROWE'S TESTIMONY, NOT WHEN HE SWORE BEFORE GOD AND BROKE HIS OATH" UNQUOTE. CHEATHAM'S COMMENT IN THIS REGARD REFERS TO ROWE'S OATH AS A KLANSMAN.

LEE STATED QUOTE "ME AND HIM (REFERRING TO CHEATHAM) ARE PRETTY WELL ON THE SAME SIDE" UNQUOTE.

BOTH OF THESE MEN DENIED THEY WERE MEMBERS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN. LEE STATED HE WAS MEMBER OF WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL AND CHEATHAM STATED HE WAS FORMER MEMBER.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SEEN ROWE AS DEFENDANT WITH WILKINS, CHEATHAM STATED QUOTE "VERY MUCH SO" UNQUOTE, AND LEE STATED QUOTE "I AGREE" UNQUOTE.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE JURORS: GEORGE SPIVEY, HUGH M. TUBERVILLE, DAN LEE, ROY O. LOFTIN, CLIFFORD MC MURPHEE, E. L. HOLLINGSHEAD, T. R. HOLLINGSHEAD, W. F. AUTREY, EDMUND SALLEE, BILLY R. CHEATHAM, C. H. ROGERS, ROBERT B. SMITH.

ABOVE NAMES WERE CHECKED THROUGH MOBILE INDICES, AND NO SECURITY REFERENCES WERE LOCATED. THIS INCLUDES THE KKK, AND NSRP. IT IS NOTED THE JURY PANEL LIST FROM WHICH THESE TWELVE WERE CHOSEN INCLUDED ONE W. C. AUTREY, JR., A COUNTY EMPLOYEE.

END PAGE THREE

FBI

Date: 5-5-65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)  
 FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)  
 EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;  
 VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS  
 CR - EL

On 5-5-65 Mr. WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, well-known author who resides at Hartselle, Alabama, contacted me and made known his desire to contact GARY THOMAS ROWE, Bureau informant in the above captioned matter, in order to write articles covering ROWE's activities, possibly for Readers Digest and Look Magazine. Mr. HUIE also stated he would be interested in writing a book regarding ROWE's activities and might even possibly be interested in discussing with ROWE the possibility of a movie version of his activities.

Mr. HUIE pointed out that he has just completed work on a book entitled "Three Lives for Mississippi," which deals with the three Civil Rights workers murdered in Mississippi last summer. He stated this book is due for early release. He explained that he has always been "proFBI" and that he could assure us that anything he wrote pertaining to ROWE's activities would be favorable to the FBI. HUIE also stated that in his opinion the public has an improper and distasteful image regarding informants used by law enforcement agencies and that he would welcome the opportunity of using ROWE's activities to try to change the public's attitude generally regarding informants used in law enforcement. He indicated that he would be willing to pay ROWE

3-Bureau - RM  
 1-Mobile (info.) - RM  
 2-Birmingham  
 EJI:rlg  
 (6)

REC-32

MAY 13 1965

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



BH 44-1236

well for his collaboration in connection with articles or a book and would be willing to pay ROWE's expenses to meet him in order to discuss the matter.

Mr. HUIE stated that he will be leaving Alabama on 5-7-65 and will be in New York for 3 or 4 days at the New Western Hotel. He will then be in Chicago for 3 or 4 days at the Ambassador East Hotel. He then plans to spend approximately one week in Los Angeles at the Belair Hotel. He stated following his visit to Los Angeles he will return to Hartselle, Alabama, and remain there for the summer.

I advised Mr. HUIE that his interest in collaborating with ROWE in the preparation of articles and possibly a book would be made known to the Bureau and if there is any interest in his proposition that we would be in contact with him at a later date.

This matter has not been mentioned to GARY THOMAS ROWE, and no further action is being taken by the Birmingham Office regarding HUIE's request pending advice from the Bureau.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Editorials****Shadow on the South**

IT WAS bound to come. After the failure of an Alabama jury to convict a young Ku Kluxer of the civil rights murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo of Detroit, Dr. Martin Luther King asserted a new Federal law is needed. It should provide that in civil rights cases in the South the government could obtain a change of venue to some place where a fairer trial could be had—"such as Washington, D.C."

Any such law would conflict both with American tradition and the Sixth Amendment, which assures the accused the right to trial "by an impartial jury of the State and District wherein the crime shall have been committed. . . ."

But the pressure for some procedure to move civil rights trials out of the South will increase if Southern juries seem incapable of viewing evidence except through the distorted lenses of racial bigotry.

The mistrial in the case of Colie Wilkins, Jr., 21, caused by the refusal of two jurors to vote for conviction, was appalling. The jury had eyewitness testimony, from an FBI informant who was present in the car with Wilkins and two other Klansmen when the shots were fired at Mrs. Liuzzo on the Selma-Montgomery highway. Bullets recovered from the murder scene were shown to have come from a pistol found in the home of one of those riding with Wilkins. The accused killer did not testify in denial of the prosecution's evidence. All in all, it was as strong a case as the law could hope to obtain.

But the two jurors, both former members of the White Citizens Council, chose to disregard this

evidence. One explained that he couldn't believe the FBI informant, Gary Rowe, because Rowe admittedly had violated his Klan oath not to divulge its secrets to any outsider.

To this juror, loyalty to the violent, lawless Klan was more important than respect for the laws of the state and nation — even where wanton murder was involved.

The sacredness of the Klan oath was heavily emphasized by the defense lawyer, himself a Kluxer, in a disgraceful argument deriding as "white niggers" anyone involved in integration movements.

The state of mind typified by the two holdout jurors and the defense attorney is diminishing in the South. It represents a small area of darkness. Unhappily, when it frustrates justice, as it has done too often in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, it is so magnified as to cast a shadow upon an entire region.

Many Southerners are angered and embarrassed by the actions of the ignorant and vicious in their midst. Last Sunday, after some 900 Kluxers paraded at Anniston, Alabama, with Wilkins and two others indicted in the Liuzzo murder marching as honored members, community voices at Anniston were raised in protest. Spokesmen for ministers, business and civic groups deplored the Klan demonstration; the Anniston Star editorially criticized it.

It behooves other Southerners who place justice above race, and law above tradition, to proceed by word and deed to help lift the shadow on the South.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4b The Tampa Tribune  
Tampa, Florida

Date: 5/11/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: James A. Glendinen

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

44-28601-551

**AT ONE POINT**, McMurphy said the jury was split eight-to-four for a conviction on manslaughter.

Wilkins, the 21-year-old Klansman from Fairfield, Ala., would say nothing but "no comment" to reporters after the verdict.

The two jurors favoring acquittal later were identified as Billy R. Cheatham, a bookkeeper and White Citizens Council member, and Dan Lee, a mechanic who formerly belonged to that segregationist organization.

**ASKED WHY** he opposed a guilty verdict, Cheatham referred to the testimony of Gary Thomas Rowe, the FBI informer who infiltrated the Klan and who was in the alleged murder car on March 25.

"I didn't accept his testimony — not when he swore before God and broke his (Klan) oath," Cheatham said. Lee was asked if the oath-breaking affected his opinion of the evidence. "I would say it had some bearing on the case," he replied.

McMurphy said that there was no sectional or racial reason for the decision. "It was just different set of eyes looking at the same evidence," the pipe-smoking, slow-talking farmer said.

**SEVERAL** jurors expressed the opinion that if Rowe had been under indictment along with the three bona fide Klansmen, the verdict would have been for conviction.

One of the jurors, U. M. Turberville, a farmer, said "This is the worst hell I have ever been through. I think every juror looked into his conscience and to his God and did the very best he could. You couldn't pin the decision on one thing."

**SEVERAL JURORS** said that the racist speech with which Murphy concluded his defense Thursday did not appeal to them.

"I don't believe he did his

case any good with that speech," McMurphy told newsmen. "Personally, he didn't enrich himself with me."

In his fiery, shouted final argument to the jury, Murphy said:

"I'm proud to be a white man and I stand for white supremacy, not for black supremacy. When white people join up with them (Negroes), they become white niggers . . . God didn't intend us to mix with the black race. I don't care what Lyndon Baines Johnson says."

**CIRCUIT** Solicitor Gamble, a prosecutor as tall as Murphy but trimmer, spoke of the integrationist motive that brought Mrs. Liuzzo south and declared in his summation:

"I don't agree with it. It's repugnant to me. But she had a

right to be here without being shot down in the middle of the night. This was a cold-blooded middle-of-the-night killing."

**AFTER THE** judge declared the mistrial, Murphy held a press conference at the foot of a Confederate statue outside the courthouse.

"I'll say this to you, I did a good job," said Murphy, the bombastic defense attorney who is the Imperial Klonsel of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

"I tried the case on my art of cross-examination, but next time a full-scale hearing will be laid on the line. I'll blow that government case out of the water."

**IF THE** state seeks another trial, it would be held in September, when the next term of court begins. The prosecution also must decide whether to try Eugene Thomas and W. O. Eallon, two Bessemer, Ala., Klansmen who were indicted with Wilkins.

~~The case against Wilkins was~~ the strongest of the three because Rowe, the FBI informer, testified he saw him lean from the car and fire two shots directly at Mrs. Liuzzo as she drove with a young Negro along the Selma-Montgomery Highway.

Assistant State Attorney General Joe Gantt said he was confident of a conviction at the next trial.

"I think maybe this vote will wake up a few people and show them that there is a slight case of murder involved here," Gantt said.

**GANTT SAID** the state attorney general's office in Montgomery headed by Richmond Flowers would continue its investigation of the Klan.

"We are going to try to put the Klan out of business," Gantt said. "And we have some pretty startling facts already."

Robert Shelton, Imperial wizard of the Klan, was asked if the Klan would try to seek revenge on Rowe.

"I wouldn't think we'd have to," Shelton replied. "A man like that will destroy himself."

# Alabama Jury Weighs Fate Of Klansman

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (UPI) — The jury hearing the first-degree murder trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., charged with the slaying of Detroit civil rights worker Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, retired last night at 9 EST without reaching a verdict. The jury had been deliberating for more than four hours.

The case of 21-year-old Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. went to the jury at 3:40 p.m. CST (4:40 p.m. EST) after four days of dramatic testimony.

**THE JURY CAUSED** a flurry of excitement when it returned to the courtroom one hour and 15 minutes later to ask whether it was limited to any special sentence under a first-degree murder charge.

Second Circuit Judge T. Werth Thagard explained the two penalties for first-degree murder were death and life imprisonment.

The jury then returned to the jury room to continue deliberations.

**DEFENSE ATTY.** Matt H. Murphy spent one hour and seven minutes in final arguments before the jury pleading for the freedom of Wilkins.

Murphy spent much of his time denouncing Gary Thomas Rowe, the FBI informant who testified he saw Wilkins lean from a speeding car and fire the shots that killed Mrs. Liuzzo, 38-year-old mother of five.

Rowe allegedly infiltrated the



**T. WERTH THAGARD**  
... death or life.

Klan. He said he was with Wilkins and two other Klansmen the night Mrs. Liuzzo was shot as she and a Negro, Leroy Moton, 21, drove along a dark stretch of Alabama highway the night of March 25, a few hours after the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march ended.

**REFERRING TO** Rowe, Murphy asked the jury:

"What kind of man is he? Is he a white man or is he a white nigger?"

**PROSECUTOR** Arthur Gamble Jr. handled the main prosecution argument.

Speaking in a calm voice, Gamble said:

"The Bible says 'Thou shalt not kill.' It doesn't say who, what, where or when."

Gamble did not ask for the death penalty.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

la St. Petersburg Times  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Date: 5/7/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland Anderson

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated



## WEAPON TRACED IN CIVIL RIGHTS SLAYING

# Attorneys Link KKK Member's Gun To Fatal Shooting

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—State attorneys have linked Ku Klux Klan member Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. with the weapon an expert says was used in the slaying of a Michigan mother taking part in civil rights demonstrations.

An earlier witness had traced a .38-caliber revolver to Wilkins, and Marion Williams, an FBI weapons expert, identified it Wednesday as the gun which killed Viola Liuzzo, 39, mother of five.

The chief prosecutor, Circuit Solicitor Arthur E. Gamble Jr., said he had "a few more questions" to ask Williams today before the state rested its case.

Matt H. Murphy Jr., the Klan's attorney, already had indicated through cross examination of prosecution witnesses the course his defense may take. He also has shown a revolver which he said he took from

Rowe and ferrying some of the marchers back to Selma.

Indicted with Wilkins — and awaiting trial — were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employee of U.S. Steel at Bessemer, Ala., and William Orville Eaton, also of Bessemer, who at 41 is a retired steel worker with heart trouble.

### Tells Of Shooting

Rowe, who said he joined the Klan at the FBI's request to get information, told the 12-man jury that he was in the car with Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed.

He said Wilkins used Thomas' revolver to fire two shots at almost point blank range as their car pulled alongside her automobile in a high speed chase and emptied his gun at the car as they pulled away.

Williams, who works at the FBI laboratory at Washington, testified that a bullet found lodged at the base of the Detroit

woman's brain was fired from Thomas' gun.

### Pistol Traced

Another agent told the jury that the gun used in the laboratory test came from Thomas' home, and still another said a gun permit found on Thomas was issued for the same pistol.

Williams first testified that three bullets found in the car were determined by laboratory tests to have come from the gun which Rowe had said Thomas handed to young Wilkins just before the shooting.

Gamble, the prosecutor, wanted to pin it down still closer. So the questioning of the FBI agent went like this:

Q. Based on your experience, is it your opinion that the bullet found in the head of Mrs. Liuzzo was fired from that pistol?

A. Yes sir.

The defense attorney refused to accept ballistics tests as valid but the FBI witness insisted

### No Two Alike

When the lawyer pursued the challenge, Williams told him: "Mr. Murphy, I have made thousands of tests and I have never seen two guns make the same marking."

That brought this exchange: Q. You never make a mistake?

A. That question has no answer.

In cross examining Rowe, the defense attorney asked repeatedly whether the witness himself had threatened to "kill some niggers."

That line of questioning went this way:

Q. Before going to Tuscaloosa (shortly before the University of Alabama integration in June, 1963) you made the statement that you were going to kill some niggers. Is that true?

A. No sir. That is untrue. Then, on to the civil rights

march this year:

Q. Did you make the statement in Montgomery to a man at a filling station that you didn't drive that far for nothing?

### Question Unanswered

That question went unanswered because the state's objection was upheld by the court. Murphy protested, "This shows his (Rowe's) tendency toward violence and trouble making."

Then in another part of the cross examination:

Q. On the way to Selma, didn't you say continually that you hadn't come all that way for nothing, that you were going to cause some niggers some trouble?

A. No sir. Very definitely not. It was Wilkins who said that.

Murphy became so enraged that the court took a five-minute recess when Rowe accused the attorney of telling him to put out a story that the FBI had offered him land in Minnesota to cooperate with them after the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2a Clearwater Sun  
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 5/6/65

Edition:

Author: Rex Thomas

Editor: James L. Beardsley

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## ATTORNEY CALLS UNDERCOVER AGENT A 'LIAR'

# Klan Seeks To Disprove FBI Testimony

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — A Ku Klux Klan attorney promised today to disprove an FBI undercover agent's story which named a young Klansman as the killer of a white civil rights worker.

The heavily guarded FBI informer, Gary Thomas Rowe, a Klan member, was called back to the witness stand to face intensive cross-examination by defense attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr. who had called him a liar.

Rowe, escorted to and from the courtroom by federal agents, testified in state court Tuesday that Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, fired two pistol shots at close range into the car in which Viola Liuzzo was slain the night of March 25.

Wilkins, a heavy-set, crew-cut auto mechanic from Fairfield, Ala., near Birmingham, is the first of three Klansmen brought to trial on first-degree murder indictments.

### Attorney Makes Promise

After Rowe left the stand, Murphy, the Klan attorney representing Wilkins, commented

angrily to newsmen that Rowe had "told a G—d— lie and I'll prove it tomorrow."

Mrs. Liuzzo, 39, the mother of five and the wife of a teamsters union official, was shot to death while shuttling other marchers back to Selma following the civil rights march to Montgomery in which she, too, had taken part. A young Negro riding in the front seat with her escaped injury.

Rowe, a husky former Birmingham

barroom operator, now unemployed, told the 12-man jury he saw young Wilkins, on the back seat of a car beside him, fire two shots into Mrs. Liuzzo's car on a lonely stretch of U.S. 80 near Lowndesboro.

### Two Others Indicted

Driving the Klansmen's car as it pulled alongside the Liuzzo automobile, the witness said, was Eugene Thomas, 42, of Bessemer. Seated next to Thomas was William Orville Eaton, 41, also of Bessemer. Thomas and Eaton also are under murder indictment and awaiting trial.

Eaton also opened fire with a .22-caliber pistol, Rowe said. But a state toxicologist, Dr. Paul Shoffelt, who removed the death bullet from the victim's brain, had testified it was a .38-caliber slug which killed her.

Rowe said he had been a paid undercover agent for the FBI for five years. He and his colleagues first noticed Mrs. Liuzzo and her Negro companion, he said, while waiting at a traffic light in Selma and followed their car for some 25 miles before finally overtaking it.

At the traffic light, the witness said, Wilkins looked at the automobile parked alongside and remarked, "Look there, baby brother. I'll be damned." Then, Rowe continued, "Gene Thomas spoke up and said, 'Let's get 'em'."

### Wouldn't Turn Back

They tried several times to pull alongside Mrs. Liuzzo's car, Rowe went on, but each time something intervened. Once they spotted a highway patrol car. Another time it was a crowd of Negroes standing near the highway. Later, it was oncoming traffic.

The witness said he tried several times to get his companions to turn back to Selma but that Thomas insisted, "We're going to take 'em. We're not going to give up."

When the time came, Rowe continued, "Gene Thomas got out his pistol and handed it to Wilkins. As we got directly even with the car, Wilkins said, 'Give it some gas'. We speeded up a little bit."

### Two Shots Fired

"Wilkins held his arm out the

window, elbow length. Just as he got even with the front window of the other car, the lady turned and looked directly at us. As she looked, Wilkins fired two shots.

"Thomas said, 'Men, shoot the hell out of them.'"

Rowe said he also had a pistol but did not fire it.

As they pulled ahead, Rowe said he noticed Mrs. Liuzzo's car still traveling in a straight line and told his colleagues it seemed the shots may have missed. But he added, "Wilkins spoke up and said, 'Baby brother, I don't miss. That so-and-so is deadlier than hell.'"

After returning to Bessemer later in the night, Rowe said they went to a place known as Lorene's and, after talking with a woman inside, Thomas assured the other men, "I've got us an ally."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

8a Clearwater Sun  
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 5/5/65

Editor:

Author:

Editor: James L. Beardsley

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

CLOSURE

44-2861-



(AP Wirephoto)

**INFORMER UNDER HEAVY GUARD — TESTIFIES —**

Gary Thomas Rowe Jr. (foreground), walks between two FBI agents on his way to court room in Hayneville, Ala., yesterday where he testified he saw Klansman Collie Wilkins Jr. shoot white civil rights worker Mrs. Viola Luizzo as she transported Negroes during Selma to Montgomery march. Wilkins is on trial for the murder of Mrs. Luizzo.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5-11-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE  
AUTHOR  
REQUEST TO DO ARTICLES  
ON GARY THOMAS ROWE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holmes  
Miss Gandy

## BACKGROUND:

By airtel dated 5-5-65, Birmingham advised that Huie, well-known author who resides in Hartselle, Alabama, has expressed a desire to contact Rowe, Bureau informant in the Viola Liuzzo investigation, in order to write articles on Rowe's activities. Huie stated he has always been "pro-FBI" and that he could assure us that anything he wrote pertaining to Rowe would be favorable to the FBI.

*I don't trust Huie.*  
Huie noted that he would be willing to pay Rowe well for his collaboration in connection with articles or a book and would be willing to pay Rowe's expenses to meet him to discuss this matter.

SAC, Birmingham, advised Huie that this matter would be made known to the Bureau and if there is any interest in his proposition, we would be in contact with him at a later date. SAC further advised that this matter has not been mentioned to Rowe and no further action is being taken by the Birmingham Office pending advice from the Bureau.

## WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE:

Huie has just completed a book entitled "Three Lives for Mississippi" which relates to the murder of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi. Although the book has not been released as yet, it is being serialized in the "New York Herald Tribune" and a daily summary is being sent through for the Director's information.

The "Herald Tribune" describes Huie as a former newspaperman who has written 14 books of fiction and nonfiction. He is a southerner, residing in the Tennessee Valley of North Alabama. He has further been described as an unscrupulous individual.

Enclosure *sent 5-12-65*

- Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure

- Mr. Rosen - Enclosure

JCF:smg (5)

18 MAY 17 1965

(Continued next page)

CRIME RESEARCH

ORIGINAL FILED IN




M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo  
RE: William Bradford Huie

Huie is a free-lance writer on controversial subjects who covered the Miburn case and indulged in highly speculative writing about the fate of the three victims and those persons responsible for their deaths. On 10-20-64, he contacted the Jackson Office, stated he was preparing a book on the Miburn case and unsuccessfully attempted to obtain information. Huie visited the Jackson Office on 1-21-65 and offered several chapters of his book, "Three Lives for Mississippi," for review. He was advised the Bureau had no desire to review this book.

OBSERVATIONS:

*Conced.*  
Although we will not collaborate or assist Huie in this matter whatsoever, it is felt to avoid any possibility of being subjected to unjustified criticism in the future, Rowe should be made aware of Huie's offer.



We should, however, have Huie advised that this matter has been brought to Rowe's attention.

RECOMMENDATION:

That attached airtel to San Francisco with copies to Birmingham be sent instructing them along the lines indicated above, since Mr. Rowe is currently being kept undercover in the area handled by the San Francisco Office.

*Handwritten notes and signatures:*  
- "out to [unclear] don't V." and "Rice ID." on the left.  
- "AM" in the center.  
- A large signature "JRM" with "pm" below it on the right.  
- A large circle with a horizontal line through it below the signature.  
- "ds" on the far right.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5-25-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: INEZ ROBB

## BACKGROUND:

In a memorandum dated 5-19-65 concerning captioned individual's column in the May 17th issue of "The Washington Daily News" regarding Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., the statement was made that our files reveal no information of a derogatory nature identifiable with Robb. Also, it was recommended that you contact Robb and set her straight.

In connection with the first statement, the Director has noted, "This is absolutely untrue. Back in the 30's or 40's she vilified the FBI and me personally when I was in Miami Beach and even picketed my cottage there. H." The Director has also advised that nothing would be gained by contacting Robb.

## ACTION:

All references in Bureau indices on Inez Robb were recalled. They were carefully and thoroughly reviewed without locating additional pertinent data. Upon request, the Miami Office reviewed their indices for any information on Robb. SAC, Miami, advised that their files contained no references identifiable with Robb. Old research files in the Crime Records Division were reviewed along with reference projects regarding smear campaigns against the Bureau in the 1940 era. This included the "New York Post" series, Fred Cook's articles in the "Nation" magazine and Max Lowenthal's book. No data concerning Robb was located in this reference material.

After negative efforts to locate data in Bureau files and the Miami Office indices, a check was made of the special newspaper clippings in the Director's Office. These clippings revealed two articles by Inez Robb. One in the 3-5-40 issue of the "Atlanta Constitution," Atlanta, Georgia, entitled "Miami Hurt to the Quick By G-Man Hoover's Charge." The other appeared in the 3-5-40 issue of the "Memphis Commercial Appeal," Memphis, Tennessee, entitled "Palm Beach's Famous Casino Rolls Along Despite G-Men." These both referred to the Director's efforts to clean up the Miami Beach area. These clippings further revealed a column by Walter Winchell appearing in the 3-6-40 issue of the "New York Daily Mirror" as follows "Reporter Inez Robb and J. Edgar Hoover have phifft, too... 'He has,' she barks, 'the worst tact and the most wonderful brown eyes.'"

## RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

JCF:jol/skd (6)

10 JUN 10 1965

1 - Mr. Rosen

RESEARCH

ORIGINAL FILED

M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo  
RE: Inez Robb

Our most recent data regarding Robb was in connection with a controversy in which she became embroiled with the owner of the Camelback Inn, Phoenix, Arizona, where she was addressing a group of women. She criticized the fact that her room did not contain a Bible but did contain anticommunist literature. She also criticized the Inn's "freedom shelf" which contained anticommunist books and literature, including the Director's book "Masters of Deceit," noting in her speech "there is no danger within from communism, only from without."  
(94-55940-4) (62-72670)

OBSERVATIONS:

In reading Robb's column, it is clear to see that she is completely misinformed concerning our responsibilities in connection with the Liuzzo murder investigation, and it is felt she should be personally contacted and set straight on this matter. She should be advised that, although Mr. Rowe furnished us information from time to time concerning Klan activities, he was not an employee of the FBI.

Since this matter is still under litigation, it is felt that in response to some of her contentions as to what Rowe should have done to prevent this accident, we should merely respond by referring to Rowe's testimony at the trial to the effect that he was taken by surprise and when he found out what was actually going on, he was afraid for his own life. It is also felt, at this time, that it would not be advisable to expand on this explanation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you, Mr. DeLoach, contact Inez Robb and set her straight concerning the questions she has raised in this article regarding our responsibilities in the Liuzzo murder case, along the lines indicated above.

clm  
not much use!

5/20/61

no. Shaker  
litcher  
ing would be  
granted.



May 24  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

William Bradford Huie, a free  
lance writer on controversial subjects,  
previously contacted Bureau requesting  
desire to prepare articles and  
possibly a novel concerning activities  
of Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., regarding  
Klan activities. Bureau is not  
cooperating with Huie in writing any  
articles on Rowe or the Klan. Huie's  
request, however, was brought to the  
attention of Rowe and as stated in  
the attached Rowe does not desire to  
meet with Huie.

b7D

JJB/ral  
JJB 1/9/71

5/25/65

1 - Mr. Boyd

Airtel

To: SACs, Atlanta  
Birmingham  
San Francisco

EX-116

From: Director, FBI (44-23601) - 348

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

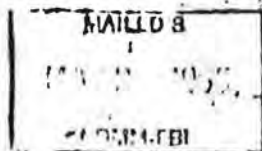
ReSFrad to Director, Birmingham and Atlanta 5/24/65.

Reference is made to the inquiry by free lance writer William Bradford Huie as to the possibility of writing a story on Rowe and Rowe's present attitude that he does not wish to meet Huie.

The Bureau also does not desire to have Huie meet Rowe and you should take appropriate steps to insure that such a meeting does not take place.

JJB/ral  
(8)

NOTE: Rerad advised that Rowe did not care to meet Huie or any other writers with similar requests. The Director has noted he does not want Huie to meet Rowe.



- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Wick \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



Volume 9  
Viola Liuzzo

44-28601



GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

The informant is Gary L. Thomas Rowe  
who furnished information leading to the  
arrest of subjects charged with the murder  
of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

HGR  
*shw R*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 20, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Gary Thomas Rowe, our informant who furnished information identifying the subjects responsible for the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65

[REDACTED] b7A  
During April, 1965, Rowe was returned to Alabama to testify against subjects before Federal and state grand juries and on 5/3/65 he was returned to Alabama to testify in the state murder trial of subject Collie Leroy Wilkins. Since the trial, which concluded with a hung jury on 5/7/65 [REDACTED] b7A R

[REDACTED] b7A  
[REDACTED] has been accompanied by SA [REDACTED] of the Birmingham Office who was handling the informant at the time he furnished the initial information identifying the subjects in this case. It was felt necessary that SA [REDACTED] accompany him during the crucial period of his appearances before the grand juries and at the state murder trial in order to insure his protection and to maintain effective control over him. b7C e

[REDACTED] b7A e  
It is not anticipated that his testimony will be needed in Alabama before the retrial of Wilkins or the initial trials of the other two subjects Eugene Thomas and William Orville Eaton which are tentatively scheduled for September and October, 1965.

## OBSERVATIONS:

REC-19

MAY 26 1965

[REDACTED] and we have received no indication that he is in any immediate personal danger, it does not appear necessary that he be accompanied at all times by an Agent. b7A e

JWH/ral  
(6)

CONTINUED - OVER

TRUE COPY

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your comments and letter have been very much appreciated. Our history class was very happy and also proud to receive your comments which were very helpful in helping us draw conclusions.

We understand why you can't give us more information, and we were surprised that you could tell us as much as you did. We realize your position and are glad you answered as you did.

We certainly don't want to be too time consuming-- and if we are, don't bother with us, we understand; but we have more questions! Living in Alabama, we realize that we are looked down on by many--especially those in the North. Still we want to see justice done, and that's why I want to question you on the Liuzzo Case and FBI-man, Rowe. Is this really an FBI agent, and was this an attempt to infiltrate the Klan? It seems like a good idea, if Rowe is what he says he is. (This is what I wonder about.) Another thing I'm interested in is the U. K. A., and that's why I enclosed the newspaper clipping; some of the issues in it raise questions. What do you think about KKK and the others? Answer as you see fit, and thanks again!

Sincerely,

REC-18

44-28601-366

21 MAY 25 1965

EX 105





Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your comments and letter have been very much appreciated. Our history class are very happy and also proud to receive your comments which were very helpful in helping us draw conclusions.

We understand why you can't give us more information, and we were surprised that you could tell us as much as you did. We realize your position and are glad you answered as you did.

We certainly don't want to be too ~~too~~ consuming — and if we are, don't bother with us, we understand; but we have more questions! Living in Alabama, we realize that we are looked down on by many — especially those in the north. Still we want to see justice done, and that's why I want to question you on the ~~Diigo~~ <sup>Diigo</sup> Case and FBI-man, Rowe. Is this



really an FBI agent, and was this an attempt to infiltrate the Klan? It seems like a good idea, if Rowe is what he says he is. (This is what I wonder about.) Another thing I'm interested in is the U. K. A., and that's why I enclosed the newspaper clipping; some of the issues in it raise questions. What do you think about KKK and the others? Answers as you are fit, and thanks again!

Sincerely,

 b7c

see obit.

testimony of an accomplice.

The state claimed Rowe's testimony was backed up by a number of FBI agents and a state trooper who appeared as witnesses.

Rowe was the man who broke the case within hours of the time Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker from Detroit, was shot as she ferried marchers between Montgomery and Selma.

He had joined the Klan five years ago to spy for the FBI. He was in the killer's car when the slaying took place, he said.

It was Rowe's testimony that put into Wilkins' hand the gun that fired the fatal bullet as two cars sped through the night.

His testimony also put Klansmen Eugene Thomas and William Orville Eaton in the car as participants. These two men will be tried later.

A question for the jury was whether Rowe himself was in on the killing. He testified he didn't fire his gun.

The racial aspects of the slaying were woven throughout the case. Murphy showed Mrs. Liuzzo to be a member of the NAACP and SNCC, a woman who participated in the Selma to Montgomery march, and a white woman who was driving a car with a Negro boy in the front seat on the night of her death.

He showed the FBI as a group striving to "break the back of the United Klans of America."

State prosecutors Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble Jr., County Solicitor Perdue, and Joseph Gantt of the state attorney-general's office told the jury they knew prejudice was at the heart of the case.

They pleaded for "justice" in Lowndes County and a verdict that would reflect credit on the county and the State of Alabama in the eyes of the world.

The case was covered by some 40 newsmen from cities in the U.S. and abroad in the setting of a country courthouse deep in Alabama.



May 25, 1965

REC-18 44 28601-366

EX-105

Dear [REDACTED] b7c

Your letter of May 18th, with enclosure, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that Gary Thomas Rowe furnished information to this Bureau for which he was compensated; however, he was not a Special Agent. Since litigation in the case to which you referred has not been concluded, I am sure you will understand why it is not possible for me to comment as you desire.

As I pointed out in my prior letter, information in our files must be maintained as confidential. However, general background information concerning the organization you mentioned can be found in "The FBI Story" by Don Whitehead which may be available in your school or local library.

Enclosed is some material which I hope you and your classmates will find of interest.

MAILED 5

MAY 25 1965

COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (2)

FBI and Civil Rights

The FBI's Role in the Field of Civil Rights

NOTE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] he was advised at this time that our files are confidential.

CJJ:pjl (3)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## Memorandum

Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Director, FBI (44-28601)  
Attention: Crime Records Division

DATE: 5-11-65

FROM : SAC, Birmingham (44-1236)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS  
CR - EL

Remyairtel 5-5-65 setting out information regarding the request of WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE to prepare articles and possibly a novel concerning the activities of GARY THOMAS ROWE, Jr., Bureau informant regarding Klan activities.

On 5-10-65 WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE called me from New York and stated he had been in contact with "The Saturday Evening Post" in New York City. He stated that during those contacts he had determined that JIMMY BRESLIN, "New York Herald Tribune," (whom he described as an excellent writer), had been trying to "peddle ROWE's story to 'The Saturday Evening Post.'" HUIE stated that he also understood that other writers may be trying to "peddle ROWE's story," and that, in his opinion, it would be a "sad mistake" for ROWE to deal with any writer until his services as a Government witness have been completed in full. HUIE expressed the opinion that if it becomes publicly known that ROWE is dealing with writers regarding his story, such information might jeopardize his effectiveness as a witness in any future trial.

No information whatsoever was furnished HUIE, and he was advised that his call would be made a matter of record.

The above has been submitted for the Bureau's information.

2-Bureau  
2-Birmingham  
EJI:rlg  
(4)

REC-13

44-28601-370

MAY 17 1965

CRIME RESEARCH



JUN

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Klu Klux Klansman In "Alabama" Trial?

HAYNEVILLE, Alabama, May 6 (UPI) — An all-white jury that heard the defense accuse the states star witness of being a "white nigger", today, began deliberating the fate of Klu Klux Klansmen charged with murdering Detroit civil rights workers

Mrs. Violet Liuzzo after four days of dramatic testimony.

Defense atty, Matt Murphy spent one hour and seven minutes before the jury pleading for the freedom of his client, 21-year-old Collie Leroy Wilkins.

Murphy spent much of his time denouncing Gary Thomas Rowe, the FBI informant who testified he saw Wilkins lean from a speeding car and fire the shots that killed Mrs. Liuzzo.

Rowe allegedly infiltrated the Klan. He said he was with Wilkins and two other Klansmen the night Mrs. Liuzzo was shot as she and a negro, Leroy Moton, 21, drove along a bare stretch of Alabama highway the night of March 25, a few hours after the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights March ended.

Referring to Rowe, Murphy asked the jury: "what kind of man is he? is he a white man or is he a white nigger?"

"What kind of man is this who comes into a fraternal organization (the klan by hook or crook, takes the sacred oath) and sees his soul for 30 pieces of silver?"

He disregarded God?  
Are you dealing with the devil himself? "Can you believe such a man, treacherous as a rattlesnake, who would sell his soul for a little bit of gold?"  
"He held himself out to be a white man, but he's worse than a white nigger."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

? Athens Daily Post  
Athens, Greece

Date: 5/7/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: ?

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: CR

Submitting Office: Detroit

☐ Being Investigated

100-371



DIRECTOR, FBI

5/27/65

SAC, BIRMINGHAM

W. ROSS  
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA  
RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

ReBulet 5/21/65.

Matter described in Bureau letter 5/12/65 to Mr. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ROSS, copies, to Birmingham and San Francisco, was discussed  
with GARY THOMAS ROWE by Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN 5/26/65.

ROWE stated he regards ROSS's proposal in the same  
light as that made by WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE. He has no interest  
in contacting ROSS or in having any commercial exploitation of  
his activities as an informant for the FBI.

2 - Bureau  
2 - San Francisco  
1 - Birmingham

JAS:mjh  
(5)

ORIGINAL FILED IN

44-28601  
NOT RECORDED  
188 JUN 3 1965

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

1 - United States Attorney, Montgomery, Alabama  
1 - Departmental Attorney, Selma, Alabama

## Report of:

SA [REDACTED] b7c

Office: MOBILE

## Date:

May 25, 1965

## Field Office File No.:

44-1245

Bureau File No. 44-28601

## Title:

EUGENE THOMAS;  
ET AL;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

## Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

## Synopsis:

Information developed prior to trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, 5/3/65, that defense attorney, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., is considered the chief "Kloncil" of the United Klans of America; that MURPHY would make possible efforts to have prosecution witness GARY THOMAS ROWE arrested at time of his appearance to testify at Hayneville, Ala., or would make some efforts to embarrass Government witnesses during course of trial.

Nothing developed regarding the above with the exception that MURPHY was extremely critical of ROWE during trial and criticized the President and the Government in general for their participation in the investigation of the murder of victim LIUZZO.

ROWE served with Civil papers at Hayneville, Ala., during trial whereby MURPHY requested payment of \$6,000 in attorney's fees.

At trial, 5/3 through 7/65, prosecution presented case which established ROWE as eyewitness to the killing of victim LIUZZO and corroborating evidence to support ROWE's testimony consisted of the identification of the gun belonging to subject THOMAS which was identified as the murder weapon. Also established subjects were in the Selma - Montgomery, Ala., area on pertinent date, 3/25/65, when the victim was killed. Cartridge cases found at scene of murder also identified in Court as having been fired by weapon belonging to THOMAS.

Only defense witnesses utilized by MURPHY failed to establish strong alibi.

The white men indicted by the white jury were EUGENE THOMAS, age 42, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, age 41, both of Dossomer, Alabama, and COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., age 21, of Fairfield, Alabama.

The indictments charged that each man "unlawfully and with malice aforethought killed VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO by shooting her with a pistol." The language was identical in each of the three indictments.

The three men told a news conference they were innocent. "I am not guilty and I think I've been ridiculed enough as it is" said THOMAS. The other two made similar statements.

Their attorney, WATT H. MURPHY, JR., said he would subpoena the President and possibly FBI Director J. EDGAR HOOVER if necessary in his efforts to defend the men.

He said they could "not possibly have a fair trial" because of JOHNSON's remarks about the arrest of Klan members.

LEROY MOTON, age 19, a Selma Negro, who accompanied victim LIUZZO at the time she was shot, escaped injury and reported the slaying after hitching a ride to Selma, Alabama.

The three arrested Thursday, THOMAS, EATON, and WILKINS, had been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on Civil Rights charges but the fourth man, GARY THOMAS ROWE, age 34, of Birmingham, was not indicted. He subsequently appeared as a witness before the County Grand Jury.

The New York Times said ROWE, a former operator of a bar in Birmingham, has been paid as an undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation since 1959, working inside of the KKK.

The Grand Jury members who returned eighteen indictments at Hayneville, Alabama, also expressed resentment in their report over actions of civil rights groups which came to Lowndes and neighboring counties during the drive to dramatize demands for equal rights for Negroes.

The Jury commended Lowndes County residents "for the fine manner in which they have conducted themselves during these trying days" and criticized news media which it said



"by their actions and attitudes have also contributed additional problems."

The following contacts were had with Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR GAMBLE by Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN and SA ROBERT L. FRYE prior to the trial of May 3, 1965:

[REDACTED]

b7A

On April 26, 1965, GAMBLE advised that a preliminary hearing was held that date for subjects WILKINS, THOMAS, and EATON at Hayneville, Alabama. They were represented by their attorney, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., and all entered pleas of "not guilty" to charges in the indictment.

On April 27, 1965, it was reported in an article appearing in the Mobile Press Register, Final Edition, that ROBERT H. SHELTON, JR., Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, sat at the counsel table with Klan attorney MATT H. MURPHY, JR. prior to the preliminary hearing in Court at Hayneville, Alabama, on April 26, 1965.

On April 28, 1965, GAMBLE stated that no information had come to his attention indicating that the defense in captioned case might possibly attempt to arrest GARY THOMAS ROWE in connection with his appearance as a witness in Court, Court in Hayneville, May 3, 1965. GAMBLE stated he had checked with the Sheriff's Office on April 28, 1965, and there was no indication that any action against ROWE of any sort was scheduled based on available data.

He stated he would be alert in connection with this matter and prepare to take any necessary action to offset attempts by the defense to create difficulties for ROWE.

GAMBLE advised that the defense had requested subpoenas for the individuals listed below, indicating that defense was prepared to utilize them as witnesses.

L. HOLT,  
no address listed;

DOROTHY ROWE,  
care of Carraway Methodist Hospital;

Colonel AL J. LINGO.

On April 30, 1965, GAMBLE advised that he had discussed the problems raised concerning the use of Bureau witnesses in the trial and the possibility of the defense making efforts to embarrass the prosecution witnesses with Circuit Judge T. WERTH THAGGARD. He stated that the Judge had indicated that he did not intend to allow the defense to wander afar in any exploratory efforts to secure data from Bureau files or Bureau Agents which was unrelated to the facts of this murder case.

The Judge advised GAMBLE he tentatively planned to hear the arguments raised by the defense counsel, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., as to the jurisdiction of the Court as a result of the President's announcement of the arrest of the Klansmen in his chambers in order to avoid clearing the jury venire from the courtroom.

GAMBLE stated the Judge further advised him that if any effort was made to take any action against GARY THOMAS ROWE, such as arresting him, he would make every effort consistent with his jurisdiction to maintain him as a witness and free from custody during the course of this trial.

The Judge further advised the Circuit Solicitor that any action consistent with his authority that he could take to avoid any complicated situations over the witness ROWE would be taken wherever possible. GAMBLE advised that the Judge was determined that this trial would be conducted in a decorous orderly manner and he was going to permit no demonstrations by any parties which might in any way prejudice the jury.

On May 1, 1965, the Birmingham Post Herald, a daily newspaper published at Birmingham, Alabama, under date line of May 1, 1965, carried the following news release:

MATT H. MURPHY, JR., attorney for THOMAS, WILKINS, and EATON, said, "things are shaping up favorably for our

the Klan's opposition to the Federal Reserve System, international finance, and the "Zionist Jew." MURPHY lashed out at the Government's practice of pumping financial aid into countries that are hostile to the United States. Several times he mentioned an unbelievable sum of \$84 billion which he said was given to a small European country hardly larger than Choctaw County, Alabama. He also remarked at the wealth of this country, or any other country, would enjoy if a similar amount was spent there.

While MURPHY's talk was interesting, it was left to the Grand Dragon CREELE to comment on what most of those in attendance had apparently come to hear. CREELE, wearing an emerald green robe which he later removed, talked primarily on the civil rights question and the Klan's opposition to the integration of the races. He commented on the recent trouble at Selma, Alabama, and claimed that Reverend REEB's body was cremated because it was "rotten with cancer and syphilis." Reverend REEB died at a Birmingham hospital after he was beaten during racial incidents at Selma.

CREELE also attacked the proposed free textbook program backed by Governor GEORGE WALLACE. He said that this was one thing he and the Klan differed on with Governor WALLACE. CREELE said that he did not want his three children going to school with a bunch of "runny nosed niggers," said that he would buy his children's books and urged others to be allowed to do the same.

TRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.,  
MAY 3, 1965, AT HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA

On May 3, 1965, [redacted] ad-67d  
vised SA [redacted] that the trial in captioned matter b7c  
against subject COLLIE LEROY WILKINS began May 3, 1965, at  
Hayneville. Two motions were filed by the defense counsel,  
MATT H. MURPHY, JR., and were ruled on by the Court, the  
first motion contested the justice of the Court because of  
publicity attendant to the announcement of subject's arrest  
by President JOHNSON, this motion was denied. A second motion  
to interview State witnesses, GARY THOMAS ROSE and LEROY MOTON,  
was granted.

At approximately 2:00 p.m., Central Standard Time,  
on May 3, 1965, SA [redacted] observed that MATT H. MURPHY, JR. accompanied by LEROY MOTON, described as a [redacted] b7c



publicity man for the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, entered the office of County Solicitor in the Courthouse at Hayneville, Alabama. ROTON proceeded to set up a dictaphone and a tape recorder, both of which were placed in front of GARY THOMAS ROWE. MURPHY then asked ROWE the date he testified before the State Grand Jury. ROWE stated he had nothing to say at this time. MURPHY then asked ROWE if he had waived immunity before the State Grand Jury and ROWE answered that he had not waived immunity. MURPHY then asked ROWE if he had waived immunity before the Federal Grand Jury and ROWE again stated he had nothing to say at this time and would answer no questions.

MURPHY then asked ROWE under what circumstances he would answer his questions and ROWE stated he would answer MURPHY's questions from the witness stand in Court. MURPHY then told ROTON to turn off the machines and stated he would ask no further questions at that time. Before the beginning of the interview and prior to the time the recording machines were turned on, MURPHY asked ROWE if he had been in the paper that he wore a gun at the Grand Jury and asked ROWE if he were armed at that time. ROWE stated he was not armed at that time and he had not been armed during the time he testified before the Grand Jury.

Shortly after the arrival of MURPHY and ROTON in the the County Solicitor's office at Hayneville, Alabama, Lowndes County Sheriff FRANK RYALS served the following summons on GARY THOMAS ROWE: "The State of Alabama, Lowndes County Circuit Court, Second Judicial Circuit of Alabama, to any Sheriff of the State of Alabama, Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summons GARY THOMAS ROWE to appear before the Circuit Court to be held for said County, at the place of holding, the same within thirty days from service of this process, then and thereto answer the complaint of MATT H. MURPHY, JR., Witness my hand this third day of May 1965. Signed E. H. CHAMPION, Deputy Clerk." The complaint as noted on this paper set forth the following: "MATT H. MURPHY, JR., plaintiff, versus GARY THOMAS ROWE, defendant. Count One, Plaintiff claims of the defendant the sum of 6,000 and no hundred dollars (\$6,000.00) for professional services rendered by the plaintiff for the defendant at his request, on the, to wit, second day of April, 1965, which sum of money, with interest thereon, is due and unpaid and is the property of the plaintiff, Signed MATT H. MURPHY, JR. pro Se."

ROWE stated at the time he was served that he did

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

After testimony of GARY THOMAS ROSE [REDACTED] A

[REDACTED] the Court recessed and defense attorney WILL MURPHY gave an immediate impromptu press conference outside of the Courthouse wherein he called GARY THOMAS ROSE a "prostitute, pimp, and stated he would take money from the FBI, taxpayers, or Castro."

[REDACTED] further advised that during the afternoon of [REDACTED] defense counsel MURPHY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and a press conference after the day's proceedings, MURPHY told the press that WILLIAMS could not make the same examination on the witness stand that he made in the Laboratory in Washington. MURPHY stated this indicated that this problem was a very vital issue in the case. He said that considerable pressure was placed on this case in seeking a conviction by the President and this might be the reason that the same examination could not be done on the witness stand as was done in the Laboratory by WILLIAMS.

[REDACTED] b7A

After presentation of this testimony, the prosecution rested its case, pertaining to the murder of victim LIUZZO.

NO 44-1245

The two hold out jurors in the case were also questioned by the press. BILLY R. CHEATHAM, a bookkeeper, said of his reasons for voting acquittal, "I didn't accept his (ROWE's) testimony - not when he swore before God and broke his oath."

The other hold out juror, DAN LEE, a mechanic, told newsmen, referring to CHEATHAM, "me and him pretty well are on the same side." Both jurors denied any Klan affiliation, however, CHEATHAM said that he is a member of the White Citizens Council and LEE said he was a former member. Asked if he would have liked to see ROWE as a defendant with WILKINS, CHEATHAM replied, "very, very much so," and LEE said, "I agree."

The oath that the hold out jurors referred to, according to REX THOMAS, was the Klan oath which an individual takes upon admission to the Klan and this oath ends with "I will die rather than divulge same, so help me God."

#### KLANSMEN OBSERVED AT THE TRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS

SA [redacted] of the Birmingham FBI Office is *b7c* acquainted with the following individuals and observed them at the trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS:

ROBERT M. SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, was present each day of the trial. He sat at the counsel table with attorney MATT H. MURPHY, JR. part of the time. MURPHY is known to be Imperial Counsel of the United Klans of America.

ELVIN SEXTON, a member of the United Klans of America from Tuscaloosa Klavern No. 5, was observed in the courtroom and was observed to bring in a large metal box or file cabinet and place it by SHELTON's chair.

On Tuesday morning, May 4, 1965, CHARLES CLAYTON KELLEY, a member of Desser Klavern No. 20, United Klans of America, was observed entering the courtroom. On May 5, 1965, SA [redacted] pointed out one CURTIS O. DOLES whom he knew as a member of the United Klans of America.

ROBERT S. THOMAS, Grand Titan, United Klans of America, also testified as a defense witness for COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.



FBI

Date: 5/4/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
 ATT: ASSISTANT DIRECTORS ALEX ROSEN AND  
 W. C. SULLIVAN

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
 MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.,  
 ET AL - VICTIMS  
 CR - EL  
 OO:MO

CIVIL SUIT AGAINST GARY THOMAS ROWE

On 5/3/65, GARY THOMAS ROWE, the Bureau informant who is appearing as a witness in the Liuzzo murder trial in Lowndes County, Alabama, was served with a civil summons by the Sheriff of Lowndes County. This summons notified ROWE that he was the defendant in a suit for the nonpayment of funds due for professional services rendered to him by MATT MURPHY. MURPHY is the counsel for the defendants in the Liuzzo case.

MURPHY's claim calls for a reply within 30 days in the Circuit Court for Lowndes County, and there is no question about ROWE's being within the jurisdiction of the court, since he was served by the Sheriff at the Lowndes County Courthouse in the presence of Bureau Agent.

INVESTIGATIVE POTENTIAL IN THIS SUIT

The potential for gain in undertaking an investigation of MURPHY's claim against ROWE is described below:

3 - Bureau  
 2 - Mobile  
 JAB:gjk  
 (5)

REC-11

44-28601-377

MAY 8 1965

FBI

66 JUN 1 1965

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

1. It should be relatively easy to establish in this investigation that MATT MURPHY is a member of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK).

2. The KKK oath which MURPHY may have taken in joining the Klan, if it follows the pattern of some other Klan oaths, may possibly place him in the position where he is sworn to uphold the KKK over his country, his God, and his profession. This situation is noticeably true with the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi, and a similar argument may be found in the case of the oath MURPHY may have taken.

3. It appears that it may be possible to establish that MURPHY knew prior to the day he performed the legal service for which he is claiming reimbursement, that ROWE was acting in the role of a government witness. For MURPHY to purport to represent ROWE, under the circumstances where he also represented three other defendants and had sworn loyalty to the KKK, be at best unethical and the basis for censure at least by the State Bar and possibly even disbarment action.

4. MURPHY may be embarrassed by being required to produce his records to show the consistency of this fee with his normal fees, for example his charges for the defense of WILKINS and the other LIUZZO defendants. A showing may be required of fees he has charged in other situations where he has appeared before U. S. Commissioners in other preliminary hearings.

5. It may be shown that no actual contract was ever entered into between ROWE and MURPHY; that MURPHY merely presumed to act on the behalf of ROWE, operating in his role as attorney for the KKK. It may be possibly shown in this regard that MURPHY is now bringing this civil action with a view to hurting ROWE's reputation and intimidating him as a witness.

6. It may further be shown that MURPHY was not diligent in dispatching his responsibilities as counsel for ROWE, since he had failed to learn that the matter had been before the Federal Grand Jury, and ROWE had not been indicted. The fact that this Grand Jury was prominently known and information

available through news services, suggests that normal would have caused an attorney representing a potential defendant to consult with the USA's Office to determine the grand jury actually had affected a forthcoming against his client. MURPHY's failure to take such may be labeled as complete disregard for his client's and most unprofessional.

7. With the showing of the foregoing items, an may possibly be made in open court or the grand jury professional services MURPHY furnished ROWE for lack of and for bias against his client. His lack of good bringing this suit may also be exposed to public. On this basis, relief for ROWE may be asked in the of court costs against MURPHY.

8. It is apparent that a successful prosecution claim by MURPHY would result in an expense to the since ROWE was acting under the guidance of Bureau and Departmental Attorneys in permitting MURPHY to t him at all.

#### MURPHY'S PURPOSE IN THIS SUIT

Lowndes County Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR E. GAMBLE sed that his press contacts have indicated to him MURPHY plans a comeback as a lawyer and possibly a comeback as a result of the victory he anticipates ling the subjects in this case. MURPHY is most to embarrass the government and the FBI in connection defense of this case.

#### POTENTIAL FOR GAIN IN DEFEATING MURPHY'S SUIT

It is apparent that an excellent opportunity exists situation for showing in open court that MATT MURPHY versive; that he is dishonest, and of dubious onal competence. Such a showing would be a severe MURPHY and would also affect the prestige of the KKK.

Consideration should be given to suggesting to House on Un-American Activities that they consider MURPHY's topic for future hearing on the role of the subversive in promulgating the aims of the KKK.



MURPHY, along with ROBERT SHELTON and J. B. STONER, and a few other key people, has a major role in Klan activity in the South. There have been indications that the people in this group have some knowledge of the facts in the Bapbomb case, and these people may also have some knowledge of the Greenbombs situation. An opportunity to move against one of these men is rarely found. In view of MURPHY's vulnerability in this case, we may be able to negotiate the disclosure of pertinent investigative data by dealing directly with him over this claim against ROWE.

Since there appear to be no serious objections to a Bureau investigation of MURPHY's claim, and we have the opportunity to rebuff an attempt to extort \$6,000 in addition to damaging the reputation of MURPHY and the KKK, the recommendations set forth hereafter are entitled to serious consideration.

A further issue which must be considered is the question of whether the government will represent ROWE in the defense of this suit, or whether he will require private counsel. This is a matter which should be taken up with the Department at this time.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Bureau authorize the investigation of the claim made by MURPHY in his civil action against ROWE. Any investigation should be conducted by following the general lines described herein. Mobile should be designated as origin in this matter, since this suit is lodged in State Circuit Court for Lowndes County in the Mobile Division.

2. That the Bureau consult the Department about ROWE's course of action in defending himself in MURPHY's suit against him. A specific determination should be made as to whether the Department will represent him or whether he will require private counsel.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 11, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Tolson  
Belmont  
Mohr  
DeLoach  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO,  
AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

## FACTS:

44-28601

On 5/3/65 Gary Thomas Rowe, Bureau informant who is appearing as a witness in the Liuzzo murder trial, currently in progress in Lowndes County, Alabama, was served with a civil summons by the sheriff of Lowndes County. The summons notified Rowe that he was the defendant in a suit for nonpayment of funds due in the amount of \$6,000 for professional services rendered to him by Attorney Matt Murphy. Murphy is the Klan attorney who represented Rowe and the other three subjects at the time of their initial arrests on 3/26/65 and arranged for their release on \$25,000 bond each. The summons requires Rowe to answer within thirty days in the circuit court for Lowndes County, Alabama. If he does not answer, it is possible that a default judgment could be obtained against him in the amount of \$6,000.

## THE POTENTIAL FOR INVESTIGATION: 102 REC-125

44-28601-378  
12 JUN 1965

The Mobile Office points out that should we undertake to investigate Murphy's claim against Rowe, it would afford us an opportunity to establish his membership in the Klan to discredit him as an attorney and expose to public scrutiny his lack of good faith in bringing such a suit resulting in his possible disbarment or censure by the state bar association.

According to Lowndes County Circuit Solicitor Gamble, Murphy plans a comeback as a lawyer and possibly a political comeback as a result of the victory he anticipates in defending the subjects in the Liuzzo murder and Murphy is anxious to embarrass the Government and the FBI in connection with the defense of the case. This is set forth by Mobile as a possible reason for Murphy's having brought this suit against Rowe and points out that as there would appear to be no serious objection

JWH/raT  
(7)

44-28601-378  
5/13/65 JWH

JUN 7 1965

CONTINUED - OVER

6-11

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

to a Bureau investigation of Murphy's claim as it would afford the Bureau an opportunity to rebutt any attempt to extort \$6,000 and in addition would damage the reputation of Murphy and the Ku Klux Klan.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF MOBILE OFFICE:

Mobile recommended that the Bureau authorize the investigation of Murphy's claim against Rowe and consult the Department concerning Rowe's course of action in defending himself to determine if the Department would represent him or if he would require private counsel.

OBSERVATIONS OF GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION:

Attorney Murphy has publicly stated his connection with the Klan and has been publicly photographed in Klan robes. Under our domestic intelligence responsibilities we need no entree such as this suit to conduct an investigation of Matt Murphy. Murphy's claim of \$6,000 for professional services rendered is a private civil suit between a lawyer and his alleged client which does not constitute any basis for a Bureau investigation. To inject the Bureau into the situation without full and complete justification would place the Bureau in an embarrassing position and Murphy would take full advantage of this. This same reasoning would also apply to any direct participation by the Department in this suit.

Murphy's claim against Rowe would appear to be exorbitant and there is some real question as to contractual arrangements for his services which should be resolved to avoid a default judgment being rendered against Rowe for the entire amount. If such a judgment was rendered it might offer a serious obstacle to the return of Rowe to the State of Alabama when and if further testimony is needed.

[REDACTED] 67A

[REDACTED]



REC-125

Airtel

5/13/65

1 - Mr. Hine

To: SAC, Mobile

From: Director, FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO,  
AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

ReMOairtel 5/4/65 regarding the civil suit against Gary Thomas Rowe. The civil suit of Attorney Matt Murphy against Gary Thomas Rowe is not a matter in which the Bureau desires to become directly involved, therefore, you are to conduct no investigation whatever concerning this suit.

- 1 - Birmingham
- 1 - San Francisco

JWH/ral  
(6)

SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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1965

COMM-FBI

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JUN 7 1965

66 JUN 10 1965

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May 25, 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Rowe scheduled to have conference  
with his attorney 5/26/65 in Birmingham  
Field Office. The Department has previously  
indicated it will stand behind Rowe to the  
fullest extent (example: he was not indicted  
with other subjects by the Federal Grand  
Jury; Department secured a prominent  
attorney to represent him in local suit; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Rowe's  
testimony was praised by local prosecutor  
and Rowe should expect the Klan to go all  
out to discredit him [REDACTED] b7A

JJB:jgs

44-25601-284

# Liuzzo Gun Not Tested For Prints, FBI Says

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—The defense rested its case in the civil rights murder trial of a young Ku Klux Klansman today after FBI agents testified that a gun identified as the one which killed the civil rights worker was not tested for fingerprints.

Klan attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr., brought his testimony to an abrupt close after questioning six witnesses in an effort to discredit a story told earlier by the prosecution's chief witness, Gary Thomas Rowe Jr.

Circuit solicitor Arthur E. Gamble Jr., the chief prosecutor, did not indicate immediately whether he would put in rebuttal testimony. If not, the case would go to the jury this afternoon in the fourth day of the trial.

The defendant, Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, did not testify.

One of the defense witnesses, Mrs. Lorene Frederick, gave what could be an alibi for Wilkins.

Mrs. Frederick, who operates a cafe at Bessemer, Ala., said Wilkins, Rowe and two other Klansmen also charged with

killing Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a Detroit (Mich.) civil rights worker, were in her place the night of March 25 when Mrs. Liuzzo was slain.

She said to her best recollection it was about 9:30 or 10 p.m., which would be about two or two and one-half hours and approximately 125 miles away from the scene of the slaying.

On cross-examination, however, Mrs. Frederick said she wasn't sure of the time and it could have been later that night.

The FBI testimony that no fingerprint tests were made on the death weapon came after a member of the jury asked that question, even though the state already had rested its case.

FBI agent Edward Lakey and Marion Williams testified that they did not make fingerprint tests.

The juror interrupted the trial with his questions and delayed the start of the case for the defense.

"I want to know if there were

Belmont ✓  
Mohr ✓  
DeLoach ✓  
Casper ✓  
Callahan ✓  
Conrad ✓  
Felt ✓  
Gale ✓  
Rosen ✓  
Sullivan ✓  
Tavel ✓  
Trotter ✓  
Tele Room ✓  
Holmes ✓  
Gandy ✓

*Why wasn't a fingerprint test made?*

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Baltimore Sun \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

REC 30

44-28601-392

JUN 18 1965

ST-113

XEROX  
JUN 16 1965

JUN 18 1965

MAY 6 1965

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any fingerprints on the shell cases and whether there were any fingerprints on the gun," jurymen Clifford McMurphee, a farmer, told the trial judge.

Prosecution testimony earlier omitted any reference to fingerprints on the weapon, a .38 revolver, or spent shells found near the murder scene on U.S. highway 80 near here.

State Attorneys rested their case without producing testimony about fingerprints on the pistol which FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe Jr., chief prosecution witness, said was wielded by Wilkins in shooting Mrs. Liuzzo.

McMurphee also said he wanted to know about "the condition of Rowe when the FBI agent talked to him in Birmingham after he (Rowe) had returned from Lowndes County that night."

Rowe had testified that he, Wilkins and two other Klansmen pursued Mrs. Liuzzo's auto the night of March 25 and sped past her in a hail of gunfire. Rowe, who said he had a loaded pistol but did not fire it, had told of the four drinking beer that night.

The juror's questions followed a recess after solicitor Gamble Jr., rested the state's case.

#### Agrees On Delay

Although Defense Attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr. already had called his first witness, a state investigator, he agreed to let the prosecution clear up the points raised by the juror.

Gamble had indicated earlier he would ask more questions of FBI ballistics expert Williams, who testified that the revolver identified by Rowe fired the death shot.

But when court reconvened today, Gamble said he was through.

Defense attorney Murphy, through his cross-examination of prosecution witnesses, had indicated already the course he might take.

He has shown a revolver which he said he took from FBI informer Rowe.



Matt H. Murphy, Jr., Klan attorney and counsel for Klansman Collie Wilkins, Jr., in the Liuzzo slaying trial at Hayneville, Ala., holds pistol he says he took from FBI informer Gary Rowe, Jr.—AP Wirephoto.

#### Took Pistol From Rowe

Murphy did not say how he would connect the pistol to the will connect the pistol to the case. His only comment was, "I took it away from Rowe before he killed someone and blamed it on us."

The Klan attorney had sought to portray Rowe, the state's star witness, as a troublemaker hoping to collect a rich reward from the federal government if he could "help break the back of the Klan."

Wilkins, 21, a self-employed automobile mechanic at Fairfield, Ala., near Birmingham, is the first of three KKK members brought to trial for the slaying of the Detroit housewife.

Mrs. Liuzzo, the wife of a Teamsters Union official, was shot to death near Lowndesboro the night of March 25 after taking part in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery and ferrying some of the marchers back to Selma.

Indicted with Wilkins — and awaiting trial — were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employee of U.S. Steel at Bessemer, Ala., and William Orville Eaton, also of Bessemer, who at 41 is a retired steel worker with heart trouble.

Rowe, who said he joined the Klan at the FBI's request to get information, told the 12-man jury that he was in the car with Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed.

#### Fired at Close Range

He said Wilkins used Thomas' revolver to fire two shots at almost point-blank range as their car pulled alongside her automobile in a high speed chase and emptied his gun at the car as they pulled away.

Williams, who works at the FBI laboratory in Washington, testified that a bullet found lodged at the base of Mrs. Liuzzo's brain was fired from Thomas' gun.

Another agent told the jury that the gun used in the laboratory test came from Thomas' home, and still another said a gun permit found on Thomas was issued for the same pistol.

Williams first testified that three bullets found in the car were determined by laboratory tests to have come from the gun which Rowe had said Thomas handed to young Wilkins just before the shooting.

slain March 25 after the Montgomery protest march.

Gesturing wildly, he denounced "niggers," Jews, President Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI.

But an Alabama Assistant Attorney General, Joseph B. Gantt, blasted back, telling the jury that crime could not go unpunished regardless of local racial beliefs.

"This is the murder of a defenseless woman . . . by a yellow-bellied coward," he charged, looking straight at Wilkins. "I'm saying that Wilkins did that murder." Gantt even reminded the jury that segregationist Gov. George C. Wallace had called Mrs. Liuzzo's killing "A cowardly act that should not go unpunished."

And Lowndes County Solicitor Carlton L. Perdue told the jury that local people had nothing to do with the shooting. "You have an opportunity today," he said, "to stand up and say, 'Murders must stop'."

The state had built its case on the testimony of FBI in former Gary Thomas Rowe, who testified that he was in the car when Wilkins fired at Mrs. Liuzzo's car. The defense offered no alibi today, and Murphy banked all on his chance of swaying the jury in a bombastic summation.

The Klan lawyer ripped into Rowe as a paid informant who had violated the Klan's oath of secrecy and could not be believed.

"He is a liar and a perjurer, holding himself out to be a white man," Murphy declared. "That's worse than a white nigger."

Murphy's main legal basis for requesting acquittal was an assertion that Rowe's eyewitness testimony was not corroborated sufficiently. He said that under Alabama law the testimony of an accomplice is not sufficient to support a murder conviction.

In his 25-minute charge to the jury, Judge Thagard told the panel that if it determined Rowe was an accomplice, it could not convict Wilkins on the strength of Rowe's testimony alone.

The chief prosecutor, Circuit Solicitor Arthur T. Gaff,

ble, in a low-keyed but still strong summation, said that Lowndes County cannot "wink at a cold-blooded killing or we will be lowering our moral standards."

#### Defense Tactic

Murphy's first defense tactic was to get into evidence the dead woman's blood-stained purse. Over objections from the prosecution, he introduced some of its contents, including Mrs. Liuzzo's NAACP membership card. The judge ruled some items irrelevant.

During the 21 minutes of defense testimony, Murphy called no alibi witnesses who could have placed Wilkins anywhere else on the murder night.

He produced three witnesses, including Imperial Wizard Robert M. Shelton of the Klan, who testified that Rowe had told a story about being offered a farm and money by the FBI to testify against Wilkins and other Klansmen. Rowe testified yesterday that Murphy actually instructed him to put out such a story.



Murphy called six defense witnesses and tried to get in their answers to such questions as whether Rowe had once admitted carrying a Communist Party card. The questions were ruled irrelevant before the witnesses could answer them.

#### Jury's Question

At one point today jury Foreman McMurphy said he wanted to know the condition of Rowe "in regards to his sobriety" after the murder ride and whether fingerprint tests had been made of empty shell casings and the alleged murder weapon.

FBI agent Neil Shanahan testified that Rowe was not under the influence of alcohol when he met him that night. Other FBI witnesses said no fingerprint tests were made of the gun or shells.

*thenceforth  
want all tests  
made as a  
routine procedure.  
This will pro-  
tect us from  
charge of not  
thoroughly &  
penetratingly  
conducting our  
investigation.*

  
 b7c  
May 21, 1965.  
The President  
Washington, D.C.

RE: HAYNEVILLE ALABAMA TRIAL OF WILKINS  
(GARY THOMAS ROWE)

Dear Mr. President:

All America should be grateful for men like Mr. Rowe and for the splendid way that J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI handled this tragic matter.

Surely our two New York Senators will cooperate in any nationwide recognition for Mr. Rowe.

The liberty is being taken of sending a copy of this letter to The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover as a personal expression of gratefulness for the way this case was handled - which redounds to the great credit of our courts and the FBI in particular.

Cannot our President do something in a public way, with the aid and advice of the House and Senate, so that proper recognition may be made for their action.

No person in uniform ever did more for his country with greater personal risk, than did Gary Thomas Rowe.

Rather than diminish - it would seem to exalt that great honor that goes with a Congressional Medal of Honor.

What can our President do to let the world know how we feel about a brave man like Gary Thomas Rowe?

The significant pages of the May 5th, 1965 issue of New York's picture newspaper - the Daily News - are enclosed.

Respectfully,  
b7c  
44-28601-374  
EX-100  
JCT/b  
C.C. Tor  
Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C.  
21 MAY 25 1965  
60 JUN 2 1965  
Dr. C.B. Powell, Publisher, Amsterdam News, 2340 Eighth Avenue, Manhattan, N.Y. City



Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# FBI Man Stings Klan Defense Chief

By ANTHONY PURTON  
 Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS

Hayneville, Ala., May 5—FBI undercover man Gary Thomas Rowe accused bullnecked klan lawyer Matt H. Murphy Jr. today of conspiring to smear the FBI by producing false evidence.

As the accusation came from the witness stand in Lowndes County Court House, Murphy's pale blue eyes widened in fury. He grabbed his hat from the defense table and flung it away, shouting: "You, you..."

Judge T. Worth Thagard ordered a recess so the defense lawyer could cool down. Five minutes later, Murphy apologized and the murder case against klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins, 21, in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a white civil rights worker, continued.

Rowe, who told a macabre story yesterday of watching night riders pump bullets into the car of Mrs. Liuzzo, killing her, was the state's most damaging witness against Wilkins.

Murphy, the imperial klansal (counsel) of the Klan, was trying to destroy Rowe's credibility when the courtroom explosion came.

## '500 Acres of Farmland'

Murphy charged that the FBI had offered Rowe 500 acres of farmland in Minnesota if he would cooperate in breaking the back of the United Klan of America.

But Rowe denied it and, switching the attack, accused Murphy of instructing him at a meeting in Murphy's office to put that information out.

"Are you saying I told you that?" Murphy demanded.

"Yes," Rowe calmly replied.

Murphy: "You didn't tell me that?" His voice was pitched high with fury.

Rowe: "No, sir."

Then Murphy flung his hat and the judge ordered the recess.

## Day After the Murder

Back on court, Rowe told his side of the meeting in Murphy's office, the day following the murder. He said that the FBI had told him in an offhand fashion



Gary Thomas Rowe  
 He sticks to his guns

that he could say whatever he liked to Murphy.

This was after the accused men had been questioned by the FBI following the March 25 murder but before Rowe had been revealed as an FBI undercover agent.

Rowe testified that an FBI agent had told him "we couldn't care less what you say. Tell him [Murphy] we offered you 500 acres of apple trees."

But, according to Rowe, when he mentioned this to Murphy, the lawyer immediately seized on it and said "we will make it 550 acres and \$550,000."

Earlier, Rowe came under heavy attack from Murphy when the lawyer asked him if he had

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Baltimore Sun \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 People's World \_\_\_\_\_

*What about this?*

EX-110

25

47-2161-396

JUN 17 1965 MAY 6 1965

CRIME RESEARCH

50

taken the klan oath. Rowe re-  
plied, "Yes, such as it was."

Murphy then read out the oath of allegiance which includes the words, "I will die rather than divulge the (klan) secrets. So help me God." Murphy demanded: "You swore before God?"

Rowe replied quietly, "Yes, to the best of my knowledge."

Rowe told of joining forces with the FBI five years ago after he had been approached by an agent named Barry Kemp. Five weeks later he said he received his first payment "for expenses" of \$40. He said he signed a receipt for the cash and State Prosecutor Arthur Gamble later flourished a bunch of receipts covering the period up to March.

#### From \$20 to \$200

They were for various sums ranging from \$20 to more than \$200.

Rowe said he used his first payment for klan dues and to buy a klan robe.

Murphy pressed Rowe on why he had not tried to prevent the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo. Rowe said he did not fire any shots himself.

"I did not know anything was going to be done until they started shooting," he said. "I thought they were just going to stop the car. There are various ways of stopping another car without shooting at it."

Murphy twice tried to connect Rowe with the Communist Party, asking if he was a member or had ever received money from it. The judge sustained a prosecution objection to the questions.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: July 19, 1965

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS  
GARY ROWE - INFORMANT

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

For record purposes, Mike Dorman, a reporter formerly employed by "Newsday," a daily newspaper in Long Island but now a free-lance writer, on 7-13-65 came in to see Wick. He said he is associated with William Bradford Huie who has written considerably on civil rights matters in the South particularly the murder of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi, last year. Dorman said he and Huie, through the attorneys of Gary Rowe, will soon make an offer to Rowe of a three-way money split intended to convince him he should cooperate with them in telling his story concerning the Liuzzo murder.

Dorman said that he will write the book after talking to Rowe and that Huie will write the screen version for movie use. Already said Dorman he has a \$75,000 guarantee for the book and a \$75,000 promise for the movie. The resulting \$150,000 would be split three ways, \$10,000 would be given to Rowe immediately after the trial and the remaining \$40,000 of his share within a few months thereafter. Also Rowe would share, according to Dorman, in any upward negotiation adjustments in the movie and book rights, sales, etc.

## ACTION TAKEN:

Wick told Dorman this was all well and good but that the FBI would have absolutely nothing to do with any of this, could not and would not help Dorman and Huie and would have no part of this. Dorman said he understood. He stated, however, he believed Huie and he will be successful in giving the highest money offer to Rowe eventually. Dorman said further that he himself intended to travel around the country digging into the background of the case. Wick reiterated we could not help him.

For record purposes.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

50 JUL 28 1965  
REW:bpk (6)

REC-18 44-28601-421

JUL 26 1965

And scavengers!



FBI

Date: 8-17-65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka: ET AL - VICTIMS  
CR - EL

ReBHAirtel to Bureau 5-5-65, BUAirtel to San Francisco, with copy for Birmingham and Mobile, 7-12-65, and BHAirtel to Director captioned "BH 248-R," dated 7-18-65, all of these communications dealing with the interest of WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE in preparing magazine articles and a book involving the activities of GARY THOMAS ROWE.

On 8-16-65, Mr. WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE appeared at the Birmingham Office and stated that he and MICHAEL DORMAN are presently in Birmingham staying at the Downtowner Motel and are developing background information regarding Klan activities during the past ten years. He stated that the purpose of developing this background information is to be prepared to write a story concerning the activities of GARY THOMAS ROWE at a later date. He provided, of course, he can obtain the approval of the Department and the Bureau. HUIE pointed out that developing background information is a time-consuming task and that he was willing to "gamble" on the possibility of writing this story by going ahead and developing the necessary background information regarding the Klan and some of its activities.

During the conversation HUIE pointed out that he is a close personal friend of Mr. PAUL JOHNSTON, Birmingham attorney.

3-Bureau  
1-San Francisco (44-809 (info))  
2-Birmingham  
EJL:rlg  
(6)

EX-100

REC-2 44-28601-432

AUG 19 1965

WICK

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent Per

44-1236

who is representing ROWE in the suit against ROWE filed by MATT MURPHY, Klan attorney. He indicated that through JOHNSTON and other contacts of his (HUIE's) in the Department he expects to eventually obtain approval to write the story concerning ROWE.

HUIE stated that he had recently contacted GARY THOMAS ROWE, SR., in Birmingham, and had later been known that he will eventually want to talk to him and his wife, as well as the wife of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., for background information concerning ROWE. He stated such inquiries would not be made until such time as he has been given the "go ahead" to write the story on ROWE. He explained that he, of course, would pay all of these individuals for any information he obtained from them.

HUIE stated he realized that it will not be possible for him to obtain a decision concerning the writing of a story on ROWE prior to the completion of the pending trials in the LIUZZO murder case, and that he does not intend to take any action before that time other than obtaining background information concerning Klan activities. He stated he realized full well that he would not be able to write a story on ROWE without the approval of the FBI.

HUIE stated that his sole purpose in coming to the FBI Office was to let it be known that he is presently in Birmingham developing background information concerning the Klan. He asked for no information and, of course, none was furnished to him concerning the Klan or any other matter.

The above has been furnished for the Bureau's information. The Bureau will be advised promptly of any further information which is received concerning HUIE's activities in the Birmingham area.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: August 20, 1965

FROM : C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLETTUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

44-28601

Information was received that attorney Matt Murphy was killed in an automobile accident near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, early in the morning of August 20, 1965.

It is noted Murphy presently has pending a suit against Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., Bureau informant. The suit seeks to recover \$6,000 which Murphy contended was for professional services rendered. As this matter is scheduled for a hearing early in September, Paul Johnston, Birmingham attorney who is representing Rowe, had requested that Rowe contact him telephonically between 2:00 and 5:00 p. m., central standard time, on Friday afternoon 8/20/65. Arrangements had been set up for Rowe to be in contact with the attorney.

## ACTION:

SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office was telephonically contacted and advised to immediately get in touch with attorney Paul Johnston. Ingram was to advise Johnston of the death of attorney Matt Murphy and ascertain whether or not it will now be necessary for our informant to make contact with attorney Johnston. Ingram will contact Johnston and advise [REDACTED] and the Bureau of Johnston's reply.

CLM:jds  
(5)

REC 37

44-28601-436

101

AUG 23 1965

57 AUG 27 1965

25 1965

137-6295-157-2771-  
UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN



Aug. 18, 1965

**GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION**

This case concerns the murder of civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo near Selma, Alabama, 3/25/65.

Gary Rowe furnished the information in this case leading to the arrest and subsequent indictment of the three subjects on charge of killing Mrs. Liuzzo.

[REDACTED] b7A

Matt Murphy, attorney for the Ku Klux Klan, who represents the defendants in this case, has filed a civil action against Rowe seeking \$6,000 for legal services allegedly rendered at the time of the U. S. Commissioner's hearing when Murphy represented Rowe to the extent of arranging his bond. He has not represented Rowe since that time. Birmingham being instructed to expedite information re Murphy's remarks.

CDC/pak

10/2 R  
JK [Signature]

FBI

Date: 8/17/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED  
(Priority)

Tolson  
Belmont  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR; FBI (44-28601)  
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (44-609)  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.;  
VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CR - EL

An article in the "Oakland-Tribune," Oakland, California, daily newspaper, under caption, "Dixie Trio Faces Trial in Slaying," quotes Alabama Lowndes County Prosecutor ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR. as saying that COLLIE WILKINS would go on trial during the week of 9/27/65, for the slaying of Mrs. LIUZZO. EUGENE THOMAS and WILLIAM EATON are also accused in this crime. San Francisco is assuming that GARY T. ROWE, JR. will have to be available for conferences and testimony beginning 9/26/65.

3) - Bureau (AM-RM)  
1 - Birmingham (44-1236) (AM-RM)  
1 - Mobile (44-1245) (AM-RM)  
1 - Tampa (44-313) (AM-RM)  
2 - San Francisco. (1 - 44-609)  
(1 - 170-14)

JGC/jr (19)  
(8)

C. C. Wick

REC 45

EX 105

14 AUG 25 1965

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge





(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Klan Lawyer Says FBI 'Spy' Living It Up in Tampa

The attorney for the Alabama Ku Klux Klan and for Collie LeRoy Wilkins charged with the murder of a white civil rights worker, said yesterday in Birmingham that an FBI undercover agent who testified against Wilkins has been located in Tampa.

Joseph F. Santoliana, agent in charge of the Tampa FBI office said: "I don't know anything about it."

Pressed for further information, Santoliana persisted he simply didn't know anything about it.

The undercover agent, Gary Thomas Rowe, 31, testified at Wilkins' trial last May that he was in the car when Wilkins and two other men fired on and killed Mrs. Violet Liuzzo of Detroit.

Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, was driving a car in Lowndes County, Ala., returning a Negro from a civil rights demonstration in Selma.

Rowe was a surprise witness in the trial of Wilkins which ended in a hung jury because two of the jurors said they could not believe Rowe because he had said he had joined the Klan, taken Klan oaths of secrecy and was violating his oath by testifying at the trial.

A new trial for Wilkins is scheduled Sept. 27 in Haynesville, Ala.

Since the trial Rowe dropped out of sight.

Yesterday, Matt Murphy who defended Wilkins, said in Birmingham that Rowe had been located in Tampa — "living like a lord and roaming the sands, eating chicken and steaks — filet mignon."

Murphy also said six FBI agents were guarding Rowe round the clock and "costing the taxpayers \$180 a day."

Murphy said he has a suit against Rowe to be heard in a Jefferson County court Sept. 7 for the collection of back attorney fees.

Murphy did not explain how he received his information that Rowe was in Tampa.

Rowe testified he had been an undercover agent for the FBI for five years and had been paid by the government during that time, that his instructions were to infiltrate Klan and Communist groups.

It was pointed out by a federal employee yesterday that it would be a natural thing for the FBI to guard Rowe.

In the first place he is one of them and is a federal employee who might possibly be in danger of his life from members of the Klan.

Without Rowe's testimony the state of Alabama would not have as tight a case against Wilkins. Rowe was an eye-witness, riding in the car from which the shots were fired.

The FBI has been engaged in investigating civil rights violations for some time and the Justice Department, under which the bureau operates, is charged with enforcing civil rights laws under the 1963 Civil Rights Act.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1B The Tampa Tribune  
Tampa, Florida

Date: August 19, 1965  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor: James A. Clendinning  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Tampa  
☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE



MRS. LIUZZO



ROWE



WILKINS



MURPHY

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Local FBI Head Mum on Talk Informer Here

Joseph F. Santoliana, special agent in charge of the FBI in Tampa, today said he "know nothing" concerning reports FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe was under heavy guard in Tampa.

Rowe originally had been accused, along with three other members of the Ku Klux Klan, with the slaying of a civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, shortly after she took part in the March 25 Selma-Montgomery civil rights march.

Rowe testified against one of the accused men, klansman Col- lie Leroy Wilkins, and told the court Wilkins was the trigger man. The trial ended in a hung jury, and a new one is sched- uled for Sept. 27.

The report Rowe is in Tampa came from klan attorney Matt H. Murphy, who said six FBI men were guarding him around the clock.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 The Tampa Times  
Tampa, Fla.

Date: August 18, 1965

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Bennett DeLoach

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44  
ENCLOSURE



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Informer Rowe Said In Tampa

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (UPI) — Matt H. Murphy, attorney for the Ku Klux Klan, said yesterday FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe, who testified against a Klansman on trial for the murder of a civil rights worker, is in Tampa, Fla., under heavy guard.

(Murphy said six FBI agents were guarding Rowe around the clock "costing the taxpayers \$180 a day."

J. F. Santolana, special agent in charge of the FBI in Tampa, told the St. Petersburg Times, "I don't know anything about it."

Murphy said his suit against Rowe to collect a lawyer's fee has been set in Jefferson County Court Sept. 7. Rowe originally was accused with three Ku Klux Klansmen in connection with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo shortly after she took part in the March 25 Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march.

However, it turned out Rowe joined the Klan to inform the FBI, and charges against him were dropped. Rowe testified at the Hayneville murder trial of Klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins that Wilkins was the triggerman.

The trial ended in a hung jury and a new trial was set for Sept. 27 in Hayneville. The two other accused Klansmen, Eugene Thomas and William Eaton, have yet to be tried. All three say they are innocent.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

93 St. Petersburg Times  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Date: August 18, 1965

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland Anderson

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

Volume 11

Viola Liuzzo

44-28601



Volume 12

Viola Liuzzo

44-28601



## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: June 2, 1965

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: HAL ROSS  
ZIEGLER ROSS AGENCY  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
GARY ROWE

Tolson ☒  
Belmont ☒  
Mohr ☒  
DeLoach ☒  
Casper ☒  
Callahan ☒  
Conrad ☒  
Felt ☒  
Gale ☒  
Rosen ☒  
Sullivan ☒  
Tavel ☒  
Trotter ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Holmes ☒  
Gandy ☒

BACKGROUND:

By letter dated 5/17/65 above-captioned Hal Ross wrote the Director suggesting that he be permitted to contact Gary Rowe for the purpose of interesting him in selling rights to his life story. By letter dated 5/21/65 Miss Gandy advised Mr. Ross that his proposal would be brought to Mr. Rowe's attention. This is being done. Gary Rowe is the informant in the Viola Liuzzo murder case in Alabama, the trial of which resulted in a hung jury.

DEVELOPMENT:

At 2:35 p.m. today Hal Ross telephoned from Los Angeles and talked to Wick. He referred to the receipt of Miss Gandy's letter and asked whether there had been any change in the situation and whether it would be appropriate for him to press further in attempting to contact Rowe. He said his company did not wish to take any action which might jeopardize the future trial in the murder case, but he did want it known that his company is very much interested in securing the rights to Rowe's story which ultimately will be told.

Mr. Ross was told there had been no change in the situation but that his inquiry would be maintained as a matter of record.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - M. A. Jones
- 1 - D. C. Morrell

REW:amr

(7)

MCT-4

NOT RECORDED  
JUN 11 1965

CRIME RESEARCH

JUN 8 1965

FBI

Date: 7-8-65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (137-6295)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (170-9)  
CONF. *THOMAS ROWE*

SUBJECT: *THOMAS ROWE*

ReBHAirtel 5-27-65 and Bulet 5-21-65.

On 7-7-65 WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE appeared at the Birmingham Office. HUIE at this time again repeated his request for an opportunity to do a story on GARY THOMAS ROWE and his activity in the Klan. HUIE said that if ROWE had a story to tell which he believed he had, he would willingly pay the sum of \$25,000 for the story regarding the Klan and ROWE's activities therein. HUIE also said that in the event this story was suitable for developing into a movie, he was willing to make an additional payment of \$25,000 for the movie rights to this story.

HUIE said that he had a representative by the name of MICHAEL DORMAN, who was a newspaperman on Long Island, who would be in touch with Mr. JOHN DOAR, Assistant Attorney General, sometime next week. He said that DORMAN would make this offer of HUIE's known to Mr. DOAR. DORMAN reportedly will act as a legman for HUIE and run out the various details that are necessary to complete a story.

No commitments of any kind were made to Mr. HUIE beyond the fact that his wishes would be made known. HUIE said that this was the primary purpose of his call so that the FBI would be aware of his interest in GARY THOMAS ROWE. This is being furnished for the Bureau's information only.

3-Bureau  
2-Birmingham  
RGJ:rlg  
(5)

20 JUL 10 1965

NOT RECORDED  
21 JUL 27 1965

SEC 7

Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

JAN 27 1966

ORIGINAL FILED IN

BH 70-9

It might be noted that Mr. HUIE was advised that Mr. ROWE had previously indicated he had no interest in having a story prepared until at least the completion of the trial herein. He was also advised that ROWE had advised he did not know if he would be interested in telling a story even after completion of the trial.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 11/30/65

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA,  
ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector James L. McGovern has telephonically furnished the following information. Gary Thomas Rowe, our informant, finished cross examination at 3:10 p.m., Washington, D. C., time, subject to recall. His testimony was essentially that given by him in the two previous state murder trials of Collie Wilkins and the defense attorney, Art Hanes, was unsuccessful in his efforts to shake the informant.

As was done by the late Matt Murphy during the state murder trial of Wilkins, defense attorney Hanes introduced the factor that the informant had violated his Klan oath in disclosing information concerning the Klan and for that reason his testimony was not worthy of belief.

Inspector McGovern stated that it is believed that this tactic was unsuccessful and could backfire on the defense since the Departmental attorneys in refutation were able to introduce the entire Klan oath which provides that Klan members should cooperate with duly constituted law enforcement agencies, particularly in relation to crimes such as treason and murder.

## ACTION:

The Mobile Office is continuing to follow the trial closely and will keep the Bureau advised of all pertinent developments.

JGK:jds  
(8)

5 DEC 8 1965

REC-21

EX-113

5 DEC 2 1965

8:18 PM

December 8, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. DE LOACH  
MR. ROSEN  
MR. WICK

11-1

After being advised by Mr. Belmont, I immediately called the Attorney General and advised him that I just wanted to let him know that all three people were convicted in the case in Birmingham. The Attorney General said he was just going to call me and tell me the Bureau did a terrific job not only originally but in the way the testimony went and the way they conducted themselves and it was really a victory for the Bureau as in this one, the Bureau was itself on trial in a sense. I stated I thought it may be the turning point. I stated the defense counsel had made a great issue of the fact that the witness (Gary Thomas Rowe) had broken his Klan oath and I thought that is insulting the intelligence of the jury and that may have been the turning point. The Attorney General said that he and John (Doar?) talked over the trial and decided one of the things which was really essential was that the Bureau be put forward in this. He stated the Bureau was held back, in a sense, in the State court trials and they felt the way to win this was to rely on the reputation of the Bureau and he thought that is what won it.

I stated I was glad the informant came through, as he is temperamental and if we had lost this we could probably not use him again because he was pretty well torn to pieces when he came back from the West Coast. The Attorney General stated he thought it was terrific and I commented that I was happy about it.

44-28607-617

I commented that we have that Mississippi thing to which we will have to face up some of these days, and the Attorney General said those fellows must be feeling uneasy. I stated I thought there was a different attitude in Mississippi today and the Governor had helped materially and if we can get to trial, I thought the Supreme Court would sustain the position the Department had taken. The Attorney General stated he thought they would in Mississippi but he did not know about the Georgia case. The Attorney General reiterated that he really congratulates me and the Agents involved and I expressed my appreciation to him.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 4:44 PM
DATE 12/3/65
BY [signature]

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

DEC 9 - 1965

JEH:edm (9)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

**AIRTEL**

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS

In this regard, it is the Department's opinion that he should be made available, however, you should not in anyway endeavor to influence the decision of Rowe either one way or the other. The Bureau should be advised of the informant's opinion so that the Department may be notified of his feelings no later than 12/29/65.

1 - Birmingham (44-1236)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Wick \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CHM:jds

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MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

18 DEC 27 1965



EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

EDWIN E. WILLIS, LA., CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM M. YUCK, VA.

JOE R. POOL, TEX.

RICHARD H. HORD, MO.

GEORGE F. BENNER, JR., ARIZ.

CHARLES L. WELTMER, GA.

JOHN M. ASHBROOK, MISS.

DEL. CLAWSON, CALIF.

JOHN M. BUCHANAN, JR., ALA.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1966

FRANCIS MCNAMARA, DIRECTOR

WILLIAM T. EDWARDS, COUNSEL

ALFRED WITTE, COUNSEL

Honorable John Edgar Hoover  
Director  
The Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing to express the strong interest of the Committee in interviewing Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., former Federal Bureau of Investigation informant in the United Klans of America, Realm of Alabama.

I am advised that Mr. Rowe has indicated complete willingness to be interviewed by members of the Committee's staff, although he has expressed the view that, as of now, he is not inclined to testify before it in public or private session.

It is my request that Philip Manuel, an investigator for the Committee, be permitted to interview Mr. Rowe at a place other than Mr. Rowe's current residence, and preferably in Los Angeles, California. It would be most helpful to the Committee if the meeting could take place next Monday, January 10, at the Mayflower Hotel, 531 South Grand, Los Angeles.

For security purposes, I have had reservations made at the hotel for that date in the name of Mr. Manuel and Mr. Louis Russell; another staff investigator. With Mr. Rowe registering under the name of Mr. Russell, his presence should go unnoticed. The Committee, of course, will bear the expense of Mr. Rowe's travel to, and stay in, Los Angeles.

If these arrangements meet with your approval and are agreeable to Mr. Rowe, I would appreciate your having a member of your staff so notify Mr. Donald T. Appell, Chief Investigator of the Committee, so that Mr. Manuel can make arrangements to be in California by noon on Monday.

44-2561-  
NOT RECORDED  
21 JAN 27 1966

REC-113  
137-6215-47  
MCT-3

JAN 13 1966

JAN 25 1966

JAN 27 1966 BC

Volume 13

Viola Luzzo

44-28601



## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: December 27, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA.,  
ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Gary Thomas Rowe our informant in this case involving the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo was advised of the Department's desire that he testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Rowe stated that he did not desire under any circumstances to testify before the Committee and in his previous discussion with Departmental attorneys before the last Federal trial he had made it very clear to them that he did not wish to testify at any future trials or hearings. He stated that insofar as testifying is concerned he felt that he had fulfilled his obligation to the Government and he feared for his personal safety if he were called upon to testify further.

Mr. Kimon Zachos, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, who requested that we determine Rowe's attitude regarding testifying before the Committee was advised on 12/27/65 that Rowe had been contacted as requested and that Rowe had stated that he does not desire to testify before the Committee. Zachos was advised that the matter of whether or not Rowe would or should be subpoenaed to testify in spite of his present attitude was strictly a matter between the Department, the Committee and Rowe, and the Bureau assumed no further responsibility.

REC-13

Enclosure

JWR:ven

(6)

CONTINUED - OVER



Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

RE EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

ACTION:

1. Attached for approval is a letter to the Attorney General confirming the above advice furnished to Mr. Zachos that Rowe does not wish to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and that the Bureau will no longer accept responsibility, either financially or security wise for Rowe after December 31, 1965.

2. 

b7A

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

DATE: May 11, 1966

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Wick

Mohr  
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Casper  
Callahan  
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Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

Mr. St. John Barrett, Civil Rights Division of the Department advised on 5/10/66, that the Department had received an inquiry from Associated Press regarding a statement made by Art Haynes, the attorney for the subjects in this case, who had allegedly stated that Eugene Thomas would never be brought to trial on the state murder charge in Hayneville, Alabama, because the Federal Government would not make Gary Thomas Rowe available as a witness. Barrett desired to know whether or not a request had ever been received by the Bureau concerning making Rowe available to the state for testimony.

It is noted that of the three subjects in this matter, Collie Leroy Wilkins was tried by the state for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo and was acquitted. Subject William Orville Eaton who was not tried by the state is now deceased. Subject Eugene Thomas has never been tried on the state charges. The Government produced Rowe to testify before the state grand jury and in the two state trials involving the subject Wilkins. The Bureau has received no request to produce Rowe to testify at the state trial of Eugene Thomas. A check was made with the Birmingham and Mobile Offices and they advised that no such request had been received by those offices. Mobile advised that the only contact they had received from state authorities with regard to this matter was on 5/10/66.

5/10/66 Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers on that date called SA [REDACTED] for the purpose of advising him that in the future Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble would have absolutely nothing to do with the case involving Eugene Thomas. He said that the state might bring Eugene Thomas to trial in the Fall of this year at which time they might want us to locate Rowe. He made no request and SA [REDACTED] did not comment on the matter one way or the other.

JWH/pak

(7)

REC-82

ST-100

CONTINUED - OVER

MAY 16 1966

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 16, 1966

FROM : R. E. Wick

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;  
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

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Reference is made to memorandum from Mr. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach dated May 13th, copy attached, in which it was recommended and approved that John Doar, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, be assured that the FBI had made no comment whatsoever to the press re the availability of Gary Thomas Rowe to testify in the forthcoming state murder trial of Eugene Thomas. On this memorandum, the Director noted: "O.K. but I don't understand why we don't tell anyone contacting our Field representatives to contact the Dept. as we have nothing more to do in Federal Field in this case. H."

In accordance with the Director's instructions, we will continue to refer any inquiries we receive from the press concerning this matter to the Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

## Enclosure

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. RosenTEB:par  
(4)

REC 29

57 MAY 26 1966

MAY 16 1966



## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 13, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;  
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Wick

DeLoach ☒  
Mohr ☒  
Casper ☒  
Callahan ☒  
Conrad ☒  
Felt ☒  
Gale ☒  
Rosen ☒  
Sullivan ☒  
Tavel ☒  
Trotter ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Holmes ☒  
Gandy ☒

The United Press International in a release dated 5-12-66 stated "FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe will not testify again against three Ku Klux Klansmen in connection with the nightrider slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. The release quoted a Federal official who refused to be identified as stating that Rowe "has had a belly full." "They (the FBI) know where he is, he just won't come back to testify." The release further quoted the Federal official as stating that Rowe did not want to testify in Federal Court in the Federal trial in December, 1965, which resulted in conviction of the three subjects but the Justice Department persuaded him to and he then got a signed statement that he would not have to testify again.

As you were advised by my memorandum of 5-11-66, Mr. St. John Barrett of the Civil Rights Division on 5-10-66 advised that Department had received an inquiry from Associated Press regarding a statement made by Art Haynes, the attorney for Eugene Thomas to the effect that Thomas would never be brought to trial on a state murder charge because the Federal Government would not make Gary Thomas Rowe available as a witness. Barrett inquired as to whether or not a request to produce Rowe for testimony in a state trial had been received by the Bureau.

Barrett was advised on 5-11-66 after a check with our Mobile and Birmingham Offices that the FBI had not received any request to make Rowe available to the State for testimony.

Enclosure sent 5-14-66

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

JWH:cmj

CONTINUED - OVER

ENCLOSURE

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS

Barrett was advised Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers on 5-10-66 had contacted SA [REDACTED] of the Mobile Office for the purpose of advising him that in the future Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble would have nothing to do with the case involving Eugene Thomas. He told [REDACTED] that the state might bring Thomas to trial in the fall, at which time they might want the FBI to locate Rowe. Flowers made no request and SA [REDACTED] did not comment on the matter one way or the other. Barrett was advised that if any such request was received by the Bureau it would be immediately referred to the Department. b7c b7c b7c

Subsequent to above on 5-12-66 Barrett advised that the Department had received a rumor from the press that Solicitor Arthur Gamble had made inquiry of SA [REDACTED] Resident Agent of Selma, Alabama, three or four months ago concerning the availability of Rowe to testify at the state trial of Thomas. Barrett desired to know if there was any merit to this rumor. b7c

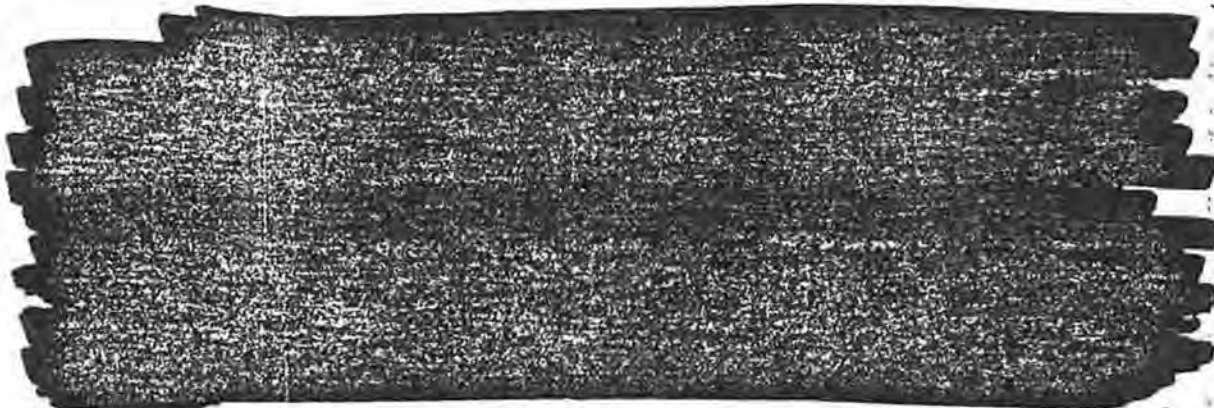
SA [REDACTED] has advised that Solicitor Gamble did not contact him relative to Rowe being made available to testify and Frye stated that he has not talked to Solicitor Gamble since September or October, 1965, which was prior to the Federal trial of Thomas and the other two subjects. b7c

ASAC Edward S. Miller of the Mobile Office on 5-12-66 advised that Solicitor Gamble has not discussed the subject of availability of Rowe with any Agents of the Mobile Office. He said that on 4-22-66 Gamble telephonically contacted SA [REDACTED] at Selma, Alabama, and said that he was preparing the Thomas case for trial and inquired regarding evidence. He did not make any inquiry concerning Rowe. SA [REDACTED] advised Gamble that any questions he had should be directed to the Department of Justice and made no further comment. This information was furnished to Mr. Barrett on 5-13-66. b7c b7c

On the night of 5-12-66 SAC McGovern of the Birmingham Office advised that United Press International had contacted him at 9:15 p.m. and advised him that a story was circulating attributed to Art Haynes, attorney for Thomas to the effect that the state trial of Thomas was called off because the FBI cannot find Gary Thomas Rowe. SAC McGovern answered the United Press International inquiry with "no comment."

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS.

As indicated above the Department has been receiving inquiries from the press and it is true that Rowe did not want to testify in the Federal trial of the three subjects in Hayneville, Alabama, in late November, 1965.



b7A

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to John Doar, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, confirming the information furnished to Mr. Barrett, and assuring him that the FBI has made no comment whatever to the press relative to the availability of Rowe for testimony.

*4/14* *clm* *JPM*

*P*

*W.* *85*

*JPM*  
*OK but I don't understand*  
*why we don't tell anyone con-*  
*tacting our field representatives*  
*to contact the Dept as we have*  
*nothing more to do in Federal*  
*field in this case.*

*P*



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A. U. S. Exhibits 1 and 2 (R. 194-195).	
B. U. S. Exhibits 3 and 4 (R. 204; 208-9).	
C. U. S. Exhibits 6, 13 through 18 (R. 400).	
D. U. S. Exhibit 10 (R. 400).	

1965; he heard only of a parade permit for that date; he came to the field a few minutes after 12:00 noon; the parade left about 2:50 P. M.; he followed and observed the parade in Montgomery until it disbanded; the parade lasted about 25 minutes (R. 272-273). *While Beverstein was with the Klan group, he did not hear anyone singly or conspiring with others to threaten, injure, oppress or intimidate anybody (R. 274).*

NEIL P. SHANAHAN stated he was a special agent of FBI (R. 276-277).

Witness stated he had known a man named Tommy Rowe for about 11½ years. The acquaintance was an official one, inasmuch as Rowe was furnishing information to FBI, and Shanahan had, since September 1, 1964, been assigned to control his activities and receive the information. Rowe had been working with FBI since 1960 (R. 280), and Rowe gave information by personal contact, telephone conversations, and written information mailed in (R. 281). Rowe worked with FBI through March 25, 1965 (R. 282). On this date, in the morning, Shanahan was in communication with Rowe who had information for him, which information was almost immediately sent by teletype to Montgomery, Mobile and Selma (R. 282-283). U. S. Exhibit 9, consisting of 3 teletyped documents, was identified by witness (R. 283), the time sent being 9:27 A. M., on March 25, 1965 (R. 284).

Later that same day, Rowe called Shanahan again, and communication was established about 11:20 P. M. Shanahan met Rowe personally in the parking lot of West End Baptist Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama, and had a conversation with him. Rowe gave Shanahan a gun. The conversation lasted from about 12:30

A. M. to about 2:00 A. M., the morning of March 26, 1965 (R. 285).

On cross examination, Mr. Hanes directed his questions to witness to develop the exact association of Tommy Rowe with FBI. Rowe had reported to Agent Blake prior to September 1, 1964, when Rowe began reporting to witness. Rowe was not a special agent of FBI; he was not a special employee, nor was he a regular employee. Rowe was an informant (R. 287). He was paid on the basis of information delivered; his product was selling information. Witness stated Rowe was paid for services rendered; he always had something to sell (R. 288). Shanahan stated he had had other informants (R. 289). Shanahan presumed he received false information; could not recall any specific instances; but did state he had received information he could not corroborate one way or the other (R. 290).

On the morning of March 25, Shanahan received word Rowe wanted to talk with him; Rowe stated to Shanahan he had been asked to go to Montgomery by Gene Thomas; this was shortly before 8:00 A. M. (R. 290-291). The delay of about 1 hour and 27 minutes from the time the information was received until the information about the car was placed on the teletype was explained by Shanahan to have been occasioned because he was at home (R. 291-292).

Rowe and Shanahan had a telephone conversation about 8:50 A. M., in Birmingham, then all was quiet until the approximately 11:20 P. M., telephone call. Shanahan stayed in Birmingham all day (R. 293). During this telephone conversation, Shanahan told Rowe he had heard a woman had been shot in Lowndes County, Alabama; Rowe had asked him about this (R.



295); Shanahan had heard this on the 11:00 P. M., news; it was possible Rowe had also heard this on the news (R.296).

Rowe gave Shanahan a gun which he kept until later that morning when he tagged it and gave it to the Assistant Agent in Charge (R. 299). The gun was examined by Shanahan; he smelled the muzzle; removed the cartridges (R. 299). No fingerprint examination was made since witness knew Rowe's prints were on the gun (R. 299-300). Witness did not know the serial number of the gun; did not know whether or not it had been fired; did not look at the gun in the light (R. 300).

Rowe told Shanahan about a shooting; they were together about 1½ hours; Rowe was not taken into custody; Shanahan did not go to headquarters but returned home (R. 300). The incident was reported to the Special Agent in Charge, Everett Ingram, at about 2:20 A. M., March 26.

Shanahan worked further on the investigation. Since September 1, 1964, Shanahan had paid Rowe an average of \$275.00 to \$290.00 a month (R. 305).

On redirect examination, Shanahan related the conversation he had with Rowe on the morning of March 25 (R. 307-309). Rowe told him Gene Thomas had called; told him to come to Bessemer; they were going to Montgomery. Rowe advised Thomas he had received Klan instructions as late as 10:00 P. M., the previous night they were not going to Montgomery. Rowe said he would have to check with his immediate superior; Robert called and told him to go to Montgomery with Gene Thomas. Shanahan thought it would be suspicious if Rowe did not go and later advised him to go. This line of questioning was objected

to, but objection was overruled on the theory this examination was merely the narration of the rest of a conversation probed into by the defense (R. 307).

After Rowe returned, he related his activities to Shanahan (R. 309-314). These concerned Gene Thomas, Wilkins, and Eaton.<sup>(3)</sup>

Mr. Hanes recross examined Shanahan as to these activities (R. 315-323). Further, on recross examination, Shanahan stated he, Rowe, Special Agents Alexander and Downey left Birmingham for the scene of the shooting about 9:30 A. M., March 26 (R. 323-325). Shanahan had picked Rowe up about 5:00 A. M., at the parking lot of GES store in West End, Birmingham, and taken him to FBI headquarters (R. 323).

They proceeded to Selma; stopped on the outskirts to contact Agent Archibald Riley; transferred to his vehicle; and retraced the route of the activity of the preceding night (R. 325). The group started from the Edmund Pettus (Alabama River) Bridge toward Selma; went to Silver Moon Cafe but no one was talked to there (R. 326). The visit was to identify the place; no one was asked if Rowe and the 3 defendants had been present the night before (R. 327). Leaving Silver Moon, the men went down a street next to the cafe where Gaston Super Market was pointed out by Rowe as the place where a U-turn was made to try to go past Brown's Chapel Church, but the street was blocked and the next street was taken (R. 328). Although the distance or time was clocked, Shanahan did not recall the figure (R. 328-329); he estimated from Pettus Bridge ~~back to~~ Pettus Bridge along the route traveled

(3) Inasmuch as a narration of what Rowe told Shanahan would be repetitive, since Rowe did testify (R. 391, et seq.), such narration will be omitted at this point.

took about 15 or 20 minutes. Leaving Pettus Bridge once more, the group headed east toward Montgomery; the distance was taken from there to the place of the shooting but Shanahan did not know who did this (R. 329); he estimated the distance to be about 25 miles. Shanahan and his companions went on into Montgomery (R. 330); he did not know if they went by St. Francis Motel; they went back to Birmingham (R. 331); it is about 25 miles from the shooting scene to St. Francis Motel, i. e., 50 miles from Pettus Bridge to St. Francis (R. 332).

The car at the scene of the shooting was on the right side of the road proceeding east, elevated above the level of the road about 4 or 5 feet, and about 35 feet from the edge of the road (R. 332). The road at this point was upgrade and straight for about half a mile. On down the highway, Rowe pointed out the approximate place where the shell casings were thrown out the window (R. 333). At the next major intersection, probably Lowndesboro, a switch from Riley's vehicle was made to another car; the party returned to Birmingham (R. 334-339). Rowe did not point out the service station where gasoline was purchased the night before; or the point where Rowe's party missed the road and doubled back (R. 334). It is about 110 miles from Montgomery to Birmingham; it would be fairly close to the same mileage from Montgomery to Midfield, which is just to the west of and contiguous to Birmingham (R. 339).

Rowe is about 6 feet tall, even, and weighs about 215 or 220 pounds (R. 341). The Rowe group was in Thomas' car, a red and white Chevrolet (R. 341-342), with bucket seats and a console. Witness was of opinion 2 big people could ride on the back seat (R. 342).



Shanahan stated Rowe did not tell him when his group returned to Birmingham; did not take Shanahan by the filling station it stopped at; he and Rowe went by St. Francis Motel (R. 345).

*R. W. GODWIN* was from Montgomery and was an investigator for Alabama Department of Public Safety on March 25 (R. 348-349). On that date, Godwin received a call from FBI that a car, license number 1B-36964, carrying 6 Klan members was supposed to be headed to Montgomery, such license having been issued to Eugene Thomas, Bessemer (R. 349).

Godwin on cross examination stated the distance from Montgomery to Selma on U. S. 80 was about 50 miles; the distance from Montgomery to Birmingham was 100 miles (R. 350-351).

*MAR E. CAMPBELL* lived in Montgomery and was radio dispatcher on March 25, which position entailed putting calls out to cars for assignment. A record of such calls was kept (R. 352); witness had such a record from 6:00 A. M., until 7:16 P. M., for the 25th (R. 353). U. S. Exhibit 20 was a copy of the foregoing record, with an entry at 10:38 A. M., concerning a Chevrolet automobile with a certain license number and a call was sent out (R. 352). Exhibit 20 was marked for identification (R. 354). Witness stated the entry for 10:38 A. M., concerned a 1965 Chevrolet, on cross examination (R. 354). Witness testified the license number was 1B-36964, on redirect examination (R. 355).

*E. J. DIXON* was a state investigator for Department of Public Safety; was engaged on his official duties on March 21 and 25 (R. 356-357). On the former day he observed the Klan demonstration in Montgomery, described previously. Aside from law enforce-

ment personnel, he recognized only Robert Shelton. On the latter day, Dixon was at St. Jude's; at the Capitol; and at night on U. S. 80 (R. 357). He was called to U. S. 80 by Major Jones, the head of his division, to whom a shooting had been reported (R. 358).

A diagram was exhibited to witness, which, without being to scale, depicted U. S. 80 from Selma to Montgomery; and witness had made certain mileage measurements (R. 358-359). Using such drawing, Dixon pointed out Alabama River Bridge (Pettus) and Craig Field (R. 349); Tyler Crossroads; where the highway was two-lane and where it was four-lane (generally two-lane in Lowndes County) (R. 360). Witness also marked Dannelly Field and St. Jude's Church (R. 361). An inquiry was made about measurements to the scene of the investigation (R. 362). Distances were stated to be as follows: Selma to Dannelly Field—43.7 miles; Selma to Craig Field—4.2 miles; Selma to end of four lane—14.1 miles; Selma to scene of investigation—27.4 miles; Selma to four-lane leading into Montgomery—34.4 miles (R. 363). These were placed on the diagram (R. 364).

On the arrival of Dixon at the scene, he found the body of a white woman in an automobile about 50 feet off the south side of the highway (R. 364). Mr. Doar showed him U. S. Exhibit 12 for identification, which were 5 photographs taken by witness of the car and the body in the car (R. 365). They were admitted into evidence (R. 365). The automobile was on the south side of the highway facing east. The road was uphill toward Montgomery (R. 366). U. S. Exhibits 21 through 25, blow-ups of the 5 photographs of Exhibit 12, were admitted into evidence (R. 367); and witness described each with particular reference to the location of the car (R. 367-368).

*GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.*, testified he was 32; lived in Birmingham in March, 1965; had lived there about 12 or 13 years (R. 391). Rowe had been contacted by FBI about furnishing information concerning racial activities in and around Birmingham in 1961. An agent came into his home about this, and, at the time, he was not a Klan member (R. 392). At the request of FBI, Rowe joined the Klan, Eastview 13 Chapter, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan located in Birmingham. He was a member of that chapter through March 25, 1965, although the name changed to United Klans of America, of which Robert Shelton, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was the head (R. 393). Rowe attended Klan meetings; had known defendant Thomas about 5 years; defendant Eaton about 1 year; and defendant Wilkins about 2 years; they were members of United Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. All during the 5 years prior to March, 1965, Rowe had furnished information about the Klan to FBI on a regular basis (R. 394).

Rowe came to Montgomery on March 21 (R. 394) with 3 Klansmen, other than defendants, from the Birmingham area to participate in a parade and motorcade. Witness was shown U. S. Exhibits 13 through 18, so marked for identification (R. 395); recognized them as being taken on the 21st at or near Cramton Bowl in Montgomery. As to U. S. Exhibit 18, Rowe was able to single out, among others, defendants Eaton, Wilkins and Thomas (R. 396), whose faces he circled and marked (R. 397). The automobile of Gene Thomas was identified in U. S. Exhibits 13 through 16 and 19 (R. 398-399).

Rowe was shown U. S. Exhibit 6—three photographs—and stated they were taken on March 21 at Cramton Bowl (R. 399-400). Witness was not shown



and did not identify U. S. Exhibit 10 for identification (R. 395-400); but these photographs were admitted into evidence over objection. Also, over objection, U. S. Exhibits 6, 13 through 18 were admitted (R. 400).

Rowe deposed he did not go to Montgomery on the 21st with any of the 3 defendants. He was instructed to go to Montgomery on the 25th by Gene Thomas, and Robert Thomas, such instructions being received at his home (R. 401-403). Robert Thomas was the superior of Rowe in United Klans of America; Rowe was Klan investigator for Eastview 13 unit and K. B. I.; a Klan investigator checked on membership applications and other matters detrimental to the Klan's way of thinking (R. 403). Robert Thomas was a Titan in United Klan; a Titan headed a province of 6 or 8 different units; Eastview 13 was in his province (R. 403-404). Gene Thomas was in Chapter 20 in Bessemer, also in the province of Robert Thomas. Eaton and Wilkins were in Chapter 20 (R. 404).

Over objection (R. 404), witness testified the superior of a Titan would be Grand Dragon for the State of Alabama, who was Robert Creel. Creel had been identified in one of the pictures taken in Montgomery on the 21st. Superior to Grand Dragon was Imperial Wizard, who was Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, not identified in any of the pictures, but he was present (R. 405).

The instructions came "from down the road", which meant Tuscaloosa, or Robert Shelton's Imperial office (R. 406). Rowe deposed he told Shanahan about his call from Gene Thomas and the change of plans; that Shanahan told him he would call Rowe back (R. 407). Shanahan did so and instructed Rowe to go along; Rowe prepared to do so; he went

to Bessemer to a place about 2 blocks from the Klan meeting hall; Gene Thomas, Wilkins and Eaton were in the car; Rowe parked his car at the house of Gene Thomas, a trip of several blocks (R. 408-409).

Gene Thomas was driving a 1962 Chevrolet, the car in the pictures at the rally of the 21st. The group proceeded to Prattville. They discussed the march they were going to observe (R. 409). The party arrived in Montgomery about 10:00 A. M.; rode around a few minutes; parked the car; walked toward the Capitol. They were within a block of the Capitol. Eaton, Gene Thomas, and Rowe were armed; the guns were left in the car. The four went to an American filling station where they stayed about 5 hours (R. 410). U. S. Exhibit 26 for identification, a photograph, was shown to Rowe, who recognized the scene and recalled the filling station the group remained at for 5 hours (R. 411). It was admitted into evidence. During the time at the filling station, the four stood around, talked, harassed the marchers, hollered at them, booed them, got in an argument with some of the colored spectators (R. 412). The crowd reached beyond the filling station about three quarters of a mile or a mile (R. 412-413).

A telephone booth was located on filling station property. Gene Thomas and Wilkins got in the booth. Over objection, Rowe testified he observed the wire was cut after they left the booth (R. 413). The record is silent as to the condition of the telephone wire immediately prior to the time Gene Thomas and Wilkins entered the booth.

At the conclusion of the parade and speeches, Rowe's group went to the car; Rowe and Eaton armed themselves; Gene Thomas placed his weapon in a compart-

ment between the bucket seats of his car; they then proceeded to Jack's Beverages located near Maxwell Air Force Base (R. 414-415). On the way to Jack's, the four discussed going to Selma (R. 415). Gene Thomas said they were going to Selma because they had things to do; they were going to get them done; and they might even get some entertainment from Shelley Winters, a real pig. The party ate at Jack's, staying probably a little longer than an hour. They proceeded to Selma on U. S. 80 (R. 416). On the way a hitchhiker was observed by Eaton; Wilkins asked Gene Thomas to slow down to see if he was a marcher and, if so, to "give him a little fun and a surprise"; on further observation, Wilkins remarked the hitchhiker was too clean to be a marcher (R. 417).

Rowe saw a highway patrolman later when the latter flagged the car down about 6:18 P. M. (R. 417-418). This occurred on the four-lane highway next to Selma on U. S. 80 (R. 418), where the radar was. Gene Thomas was asked for and produced his driver's license; was informed he was barely in the maximum not to be ticketed for speeding; he was stopped for defective mufflers. A ticket was issued for improper mufflers, which Rowe saw (R. 419).

The trip was continued on into Selma where the first stop was Silver Moon Cafe, about 2 or 3 blocks from Pettus Bridge; beer was ordered (R. 420). Prior to this all four had 2 beers each at Jack's, but that was all during the day (R. 420-421). The group remained at Silver Moon about 30 or 45 minutes. They discussed going to a colored A. M. E. Church where Shelley Winters was to entertain the marchers. While there, Gene Thomas left the table and talked with a man (R. 421). Upon returning, he informed his cohorts the man was the one who was out on the Reeb killing (R. 422).



Gene Thomas left the table again and returned. The ensuing discussion was about going to the church. When the group started to depart, this otherwise unidentified person from the record came up and stated he had done his job and for them to do theirs (R. 423).

The four left Silver Moon, got into the car, drove toward the church, which was less than 12 blocks away (R. 423). Gene Thomas got the car on a street 1 block over from the church. There a colored couple was walking (R. 424); Gene Thomas and Wilkins remarked they were going to have some fun and "take them." Rowe saw an Army truck with soldiers sitting in it; the four passed these colored people and went on. Gene Thomas removed his gun from the compartment behind the seats prior to this and handed it to Wilkins, holding it after the colored people were passed (R. 425).

Rowe and the 3 defendants prepared to leave Selma over the Pettus Bridge (R. 425-426); about 2 or 3 blocks from the bridge they were stopped by a red light; an automobile pulled up on the left with a white woman driving and a Negro sitting beside her; Gene Thomas said they should follow the car to see where they were going. Thomas said he thought they were going out to the woods on a dirt road and park. Thomas told those in the back to get down out of sight; that they were going to follow and take them (R. 426). Thomas remarked he believed they had some of the brass. Rowe stated Gene Thomas constantly remarked the two were going out on the highway and make love; that they were going to get them. The car was a light colored Oldsmobile with a Michigan license plate (R. 427). Wilkins and Rowe, in the back seat, were told to sit up by Gene Thomas after the latter started following the car (R. 428).

Gene Thomas drove fast—from 10 miles an hour up to 90 and 100 (R. 428). (In what transpired subsequently, Rowe testified there were constant comments, particularly by Gene Thomas, that they were going to take them tonight). As the Rowe car approached Craig, the Oldsmobile was in the left lane, veered to the right, then speeded down the highway. Gene Thomas followed at speeds of 80 to 90 miles an hour (R. 429).

Rowe saw a green Volkswagon type station wagon and a highway patrolman at the point they received their ticket. The next time Gene Thomas tried to go around, the Oldsmobile was on the two-lane (R. 430). Rowe saw a two-story building with automobiles and Negroes around it; Rowe wanted to go back to town and find somebody else; they were going to get caught; it was not worth it (R. 431).

In a swamp area, Gene Thomas started around the Oldsmobile, handing Wilkins his pistol (R. 432). This was a .38 caliber pistol. The rest got their guns out on orders from Gene Thomas. Wilkins stuck his arm out the window about at elbow length; the woman turned her head and kind of looked toward Rowe's car; Wilkins fired 2 fast shots into the glass of the Oldsmobile, into the front window. Eaton started firing; Rowe put his gun up near the side of Wilkins' head; Wilkins continued firing as Gene Thomas passed the Oldsmobile; Eaton continued firing even after the Oldsmobile had been completely passed (R. 433). A little further on, Wilkins threw his casings out and reloaded; then Eaton threw his casings out at the window on the right hand side of the highway. The four proceeded at an extremely high rate of speed to Montgomery (R. 434).

In Montgomery, the four went to St. Francis Motel and turned in the direction of Birmingham (R. 435). They stopped at a filling station between Montgomery and Birmingham about 6 to 8 miles north of the south end of the freeway to Birmingham on another road (R. 435-436). After getting gas, Gene Thomas made a U-turn and returned to get on the freeway to Birmingham. The four went to VFW club in Bessemer (R. 436). On the return trip, Gene Thomas stated they were going to VFW Club to see Bob; he would give them an alibi in case the white woman and Negro were dead (R. 437). The four went to the club; did not see Bob; they ordered 2 beers; Gene suggested going to Lorene's for an alibi; Lorene ran a cafe; the group went to the cafe; Gene Thomas went away for about minutes; on his return, he stated everything was in care of (R. 438); she would alibi for them. The four had a beer; left, and went to Gene Thomas' house; there they disbanded (R. 439).

Over objection, Rowe was allowed to testify the purpose of the Klan was to maintain white supremacy by any means necessary (R. 442).

On cross examination, Rowe stated he joined the Klan in 1960 or 1961 (R. 452). There was a ritual during which he took an oath, part of which is in the record at p. 453. After taking this oath of which the above was a part, and which was marked Defendant's Exhibit 1 for identification, Rowe admitted he divulged and revealed secrets of the organization and the names of members of the organization (R. 454). The Klan oath was admitted into evidence (R. 455), Defendants' Exhibit 1.

Rowe denied he agitated and provoked the Klan into activity; nor did he urge them to do certain things (R. 458).



While Rowe denied he participated in the attack on the first Freedom Riders on Mother's Day in Birmingham at the bus station he admitted he was present (R. 458). He went with some Klan buddies. Rowe admitted there was quite a melee at the bus station for about 15 minutes. After this, Rowe, along with others, got into an affray with 6 Negroes at 7th Avenue and 18th Street, North. Rowe got his throat cut rather severely and was bleeding profusely (R. 462). Rowe went to the bus station voluntarily and nothing forced him to go to the scene of the affray (R. 464). Rowe went to University of Alabama when there was trouble on integration matters, probably in June, 1963 (R. 464). He was arrested in Tuscaloosa.

Rowe admitted he was at Sandy Ridge Country Club in Birmingham with Lt. Dave Orange and others (R. 467). This club had a reputation for entertaining racially mixed couples (R. 468). Rowe denied he told some friends Lt. Orange wanted them with guns to meet Rowe at Sandy Ridge Club on March 18, 1965, at night. Rowe denied that prior to entering the Club he said to men waiting outside, including these defendants, "When I fire the first shot, rush in and shoot hell out of the place" (R. 469). Witness stated he went to Montgomery on Sunday, the 21st, with Leroy Rutherford, Robert Thomas, and Jack Crawford (R. 470). The group met at the house of Robert Thomas about 9:00 A. M., and left shortly thereafter for Montgomery. This quartet went U. S. 31 South. He had his gun, but did not inquire as to the others and did not know if they had them or not (R. 472). On U. S. Exhibit 18, a photograph, Rowe identified himself and marked the exhibit (R. 475-476). They arrived at the gathering around 11:00 or 11:30 A. M. Rowe did not recall any speech on that occasion by Robert Shel-

ton or Creel; he was not there full time (R. 477). Rowe testified he heard Crawford and Rutherford make some threats, but not publicly in a speech (R. 478). Rowe participated in the motorcade, which lasted about 20 or 30 minutes, then disbanded on the Selma road (R. 478). These four proceeded on toward Selma; they saw some marchers (R. 479).

Witness deposed he went to Montgomery on the 25th with the 3 defendants in Gene Thomas' automobile (R. 481). This was a 1962 Chevrolet, red and creamish white in color. They possibly took Route 150 from Bessemer to the freeway for Montgomery, arriving about 10:00 or 10:30 A. M. The car was parked in a regular paying parking lot. He left his gun in car (R. 485); he asked Gene Thomas to put it away; he was not sure about what he did with the holster (R. 486). All in the group left their guns; they went to an American filling station at Hull and Dexter about a block from the Capitol. There was a crowd at the filling station (R. 487); later a crowd in the street; very definitely curiosity seekers and mere spectators (R. 488).

They left the station about 3:00 P. M. (R. 489); went to the parking lot; got into the car; Rowe got his gun; they left the parking lot with Gene Thomas driving (R. 490). Eaton was sitting in front by Gene Thomas (R. 490-491); Rowe sat behind Gene Thomas; Wilkins sat to the right of Rowe. These were the positions maintained during the entire trip. They drove to Jack's, which is several miles from the parking lot (R. 491), arriving around 4:00 P. M., the trip taking about 20 or 25 minutes. They parked and went inside; they ate; they each drank 2 beers (R. 492).

Rowe and his helpmates left Jack's about 5:00 P. M.; they resumed their usual seating positions;

started to Selma (R. 494) on U. S. 80. A state trooper stopped the car at a crossroads nearer Selma than Montgomery; he flagged them down with a light (R. 495). Gene Thomas was cited for improper mufflers, i. e., a warning ticket (R. 498). They proceeded to Selma (R. 498) and first stop was Silver Moon Cafe, which was reached in the vicinity of 6:00 P. M., perhaps later. The car was parked and all went inside. Witness stated the time was "closer to seven" (R. 499). Rowe and Thomas had a beer; Wilkins probably milk and Eaton probably a soft drink; nothing to eat. Their stay at Silver Moon was approximately 35 or 40 minutes; maybe longer (R. 500). Resuming their usual car positions, the group started toward the colored church (R. 500-501). Gene Thomas apparently missed the street as he made a U-turn and doubled back toward Silver Moon, which was in the same proximity (R. 501). Thomas then went on a dirt street one block over from the church, and returned to a main thoroughfare leading to the steel bridge (Pettus) (R. 502).

The other car was seen about the 2nd or 3rd traffic light from the bridge toward Selma (R. 502). Traveling from Silver Moon to this traffic light consumed in time about 25 minutes, maybe not that long. The car in which Rowe was riding proceeded out the highway; Rowe had his gun. Rowe's car caught up to the other car by going 10 to 15 miles an hour fluctuating to over 100 miles an hour (R. 503). When passing the other car the speed was about 60 or 65 (R. 504). From the traffic light in Selma to the place of shooting was about 25 miles and took about 25 or 30 minutes to reach, maybe not that long. When Wilkins shot, Rowe testified he placed his arm beside that of Wilkins; but did not knock Wilkins' arm to keep him from firing nor tell him not to fire (R. 505). Rowe did not tell Eaton or anybody not to fire (R. 506).



After the shooting, Wilkins threw his cartridges out the window, then Eaton did likewise almost simultaneously (R. 506-507). At the time the speed of the car was 90 or better (R. 506), and the road was two-lane. The car was in the right hand lane (R. 507), fairly close to the edge of the pavement (R. 508).

Rowe next recognized St. Francis Motel, at which point a left turn was made. It was 15 or 20 miles from point of shooting to St. Francis (R. 508), and time-wise 20 minutes. The left turn at St. Francis put the car on the road to Birmingham (R. 509). They stopped at a filling station, bought gas, and all went to the rest room in less than 6 minutes. This service station was about 10 or 15 miles from St. Francis (R. 510), and about 15 minutes to reach. It was some 6 or 8 beyond the southern end of the Birmingham freeway and Rowe and the three doubled back to connect with the freeway (R. 511).

A county road was taken at Alabaster to Bessemer (R. 512), where VFW Club was visited on the outskirts of Bessemer between 9:00 and 10:00 P. M. (R. 513). Each of the four consumed right at 1½ beers (R. 514). They remained at VFW approximately 10 or 15 minutes, and then journeyed to Lorene's Cafe in Bessemer, about a mile or 2 from VFW. It required just a short time to reach Lorene's (R. 515), where the four stopped for 20 or 25 minutes. Rowe had a beer at Lorene's and maybe 2; each of the four ordered the same (R. 516).

Leaving Lorene's the quartet returned to in front of the house of Gene Thomas, probably a mile or so from Lorene's, which distance required only a few minutes to negotiate, maybe 6 (R. 517). On arrival at Thomas' house, all alighted from the car; this was

about 11:00 P. M. After managing to get his car started after some difficulty, Rowe drove into Central Park (R. 518). Shanahan met Rowe at West End Baptist parking lot about an hour later (R. 519). After a time Rowe got into Shanahan's station wagon and they talked for 2 or 3 hours (R. 520-521). Rowe left Shanahan about 2:00 or 3:00 A. M., and went home (R. 521).

Shanahan and Rowe next met about 6:00 A. M., between FBI office and Rowe's home (R. 521), where Rowe got into Shanahan's FBI vehicle and was driven to FBI office in Birmingham (R. 522). Agents Shanahan, Downey and Alexander, with Rowe, left about 9:00 or 9:30 A. M., to sojourn to Selma, taking U. S. 31 to Montgomery, thence U. S. 80 to Selma. Rowe did not point out the service station where he and his Klan brothers stopped the night previous for gas (R. 523), but returning he did point out St. Francis Motel. However, no stops were made. They slowed down, but did not stop, at that point on U. S. 80 where there was considerable activity and there was a car off the road (R. 524).

In Selma Silver Moon was given a passing glance (R. 525) about 11:00 A. M. (R. 531). The church was looked at (R. 532) and this group proceeded to Pettus Bridge and out U. S. 80, taking the same route back (R. 533), slowing down once more at the scene of the activity on U. S. 80. Birmingham was reached about 3:00 or 4:00 P. M. (R. 534) where Rowe was incarcerated in county jail. Bond was made for him that same night (R. 535).

On redirect examination, Rowe stated at the Klan rally in Montgomery on March 21, Rowe, together with Crawford and Rutherford, harrassed and booed

state officers, took pictures of FBI agents, and tried to get a license tag number of a state car (R. 544).

Rowe related that at the time of the shooting Gene Thomas asked Eaton what he was shooting. Eaton replied his .22 and justified this by stating he was using long rifle bullets which had to have their heads cut off so they would fit the chamber, making them more deadly (R. 545).

After Rowe stated he had been sent by FBI to infiltrate the Klan, Mr. Doar then questioned Rowe about the Klan oath and had Rowe read 2 paragraphs thereof (R. 546). Mr. Hanes had Rowe read other sections of the oath of allegiance (R. 547-549).

PAUL E. SHOFFEITT stated he was a toxicologist and assistant director of the State Department of Toxicology and Criminal Investigation stationed at Auburn (R. 551). Witness saw the body at White's Chapel Funeral Home in Montgomery around midnight on March 25 (R. 552). That body was identified to him as Viola Gregg Luizzo, and he performed an autopsy. This post-mortem examination revealed the cause of death was "hemorrhage and brain damage as result of a bullet wound which penetrated the left side of the head" (R. 553). A bullet was recovered and the Doctor received another piece of lead from a state investigator (R. 554). These were delivered to Roy Eveland, an FBI agent at Opelika (R. 555), on the 27th (R. 556). After cross, redirect and recross examination, witness was excused.<sup>(4)</sup>

- (4) Since many of the points elicited from this witness and several others which follow are otherwise developed, such points will be deferred until that more appropriate time to avoid repetition.



**ROY EVELAND** stated he was special agent of FBI (R. 564-565). Dr. Shoffeitt on March 27, delivered to him 2 lead bullets which were in small brown envelopes. After Eveland saw the bullets they were resealed in different envelopes by the Doctor and identified (R. 565-566). Eveland delivered these envelopes to Marion Williams that same day. The 2 envelopes were marked for identification as U. S. Exhibit 28 and 29 (R. 566).

**QUIDA LARSON** lived in Selma and worked at Silver Moon Cafe (R. 571). She worked there on March 25 from 2 until 12. On that day 4 persons came into Silver Moon between 7:00 and 8:30 P. M. (R. 572). Witness identified defendants Thomas, Wilkins and Eaton as 3 of those 4 persons and said she did not see the fourth in the courtroom (R. 573). The four sat in a booth and she served 2 of them beer. Witness could not recall any particular person from among the many others who were present at that time, nor did she remember how long they stayed (R. 574).

**ARCHIBALD L. RILEY** was a special agent for FBI (R. 577). He was stationed at Selma on March 26, 1965. He met Rowe and some Birmingham agents in Selma (R. 578). Rowe directed Riley as to the route he had taken the night before, from Pettus Bridge through Selma and back to U. S. 80 to the scene (R. 579-581).

On Monday, the 29th, Riley was searching the shoulders of the road on the Montgomery side from the scene of the shooting (R. 581). With some others, Riley found 5 .38 caliber shells, which had been fired. These casings were identified on the inside by a marking, and handed to witness who mailed them to FBI laboratory, Washington (R. 583).

him as Q 16. These were the Eveland exhibits (R. 778-779). U. S. Exhibit 39 (R. 679) was the Thomas Smith and Wesson (R. 779). Test specimens were fired from the gun and these test cartridge cases and bullets were the ones used in his examinations (R. 780). U. S. Exhibit 46 (R. 744) was the Rowe Smith and Wesson (R. 780). U. S. Exhibit 33 (R. 645) was the Eaton .22 caliber hand gun (R. 781). U. S. Exhibit 50 was the fragment of a .38 caliber bullet found under the rear seat of the car (R. 782). U. S. Exhibit 51 was the badly mutilated .38 caliber bullet recovered from beneath the rain gutter (R. 782-783). The bullets were admitted without objection (R. 777-779; 783). Witness stated his opinion to be that the bullets in Exhibits 28, 29 and 50 were fired from Exhibit 39. Exhibit 51 was not identified with Exhibit 39 because of its mutilated condition (R. 784-785). This was illustrated by the comparison photographs of U. S. Exhibit 55 (R. 794). Exhibit 45, the 5 casings on U. S. 80, was shown to witness and he stated he had come to the conclusion they had been fired from the Thomas S. & W., and not the Rowe S. & W. (R. 787). This was demonstrated technically by U. S. Exhibit 52, a casing from a .38 caliber special cartridge fired in Exhibit 46; U. S. Exhibit 53, a photographic exhibit prepared from photomicrographs of one of the casings; and U. S. Exhibit 54, a photographic exhibit of the other four casings (R. 787-793). Witness said: "These photographs (of the bullets and casings) in and of themselves do not prove the identification; the identification is based upon the microscopic study and the experience of the Examiner." (R. 795) Williams further stated his conclusion the .22 caliber cartridge of Exhibit 42, taken from Thomas' car, was not fired from the .22 caliber gun of Eaton, Exhibit 33 (R. 798).

(R. 229; 257-258), were erroneously admitted because they had no probative value as to specific intent under §241. See Point VI, *infra*. At most, the exhibits could be used in contempt proceedings to show knowledge of the court's order (Cf. 231-232). Otherwise, they merely show a peaceable assembly, a constitutional right.

D. U. S. Exhibit 10 (R. 400), 3 pictures of cars in the Klan motorcade of March 21 (R. 248-249), were never properly identified and hence erroneously admitted, nor did they have probative value. See Point VI, *infra*.

E. Rowe testified as to the organization of the Klan and the meaning of certain Klan expressions (R. 404-406). This was error because it was proof of nothing and sanctioned "guilt by association", and had no probative value of the specific intent required in §241. See Point VI, *infra*. As was aptly stated by defense counsel, "Klan organization is not here on trial." (R. 404)

F. Rowe was allowed to testify, on the question of intent, that he saw a telephone line cut after Gene Thomas and Wilkins left a booth on March 25 (R. 413). This had no probative value as to a specific intent to deprive a person of a federal right made definite by division or rule of law. See Point VI, *infra*. It is further objectionable because the predicate was not laid as to the condition of the wire before they entered the booth.

G. The testimony of Rowe as to Klan activities with defendants and the purpose of the Klan (R. 440-442) was highly prejudicial as offering to prove a specific intent by mere association. That the purpose of the Klan was to maintain white supremacy was legitimate, in and of itself, under Amendment I, and the



addition of the phrase "by ballots or bullets", stated by Rowe to have been used "very often", adds nothing. In fact, one would have to infer defendants used this expression, which is not a reasonable inference, or infer they heard the phrase used, which did not appear, and further infer they ascribed to it. As an inference on an inference it was highly prejudicial, since the court on the basis of this statement alone admitted into evidence U. S. Exhibit 41, a sawed off shotgun found in Gene Thomas' home (R. 694-695; 708-709).

H. U. S. Exhibits 36, 37 and 38 were packages of rounds of .38 caliber ammunition (R. 662-663) and U. S. Exhibit 41 was a sawed off shotgun (R. 707). These were seized purportedly under a search warrant, U. S. Exhibit 35. Rules 41 (b) (2) and 41 (c) "a", Fed. R. Crim. Proc., are quite specific a valid warrant shall issue only on establishing the grounds therefor, one ground being the property had been used as a means of committing a criminal offense. These facts are considered pertinent: (1) The autopsy on the body of Viola Luizzo was concluded about 2:00 A. M., on March 26, and a mutilated .38 caliber bullet recovered (R. 553-555); (2) The search warrant was issued presumably during business hours of the United States Commissioner on March 26; (3) The warrant described the property as "guns, rifles, pistols, ammuni-

- (8) Rule 41 (b): "Grounds for Issuance. A warrant may be issued under this rule to search for and seize any property . . . (2) Designed or intended for use or which is or has been used as the means of committing a criminal offense; . . ."

Rule 41 (c): "Issuance and Contents. A warrant shall issue only on affidavit sworn to before the judge or commissioner and establishing the grounds for issuing the warrant . . . (and) he shall issue a warrant identifying the property . . ."

to 7 than 6 P. M. (R. 499). Ouida Larson testified the four came in between 7 and 8:30 P. M. (R. 572). Rowe stated they were in Silver Moon about 35 or 40 minutes, perhaps a little longer (R. 500). If we grant Rowe arrived at Silver Moon at 6:45 P. M., and stayed 35 minutes, the time was 7:20 P. M. The trip to the vicinity of Brown's Chapel Church took 20 or 25 minutes (R. 503). The time was 7:40 P. M., and they were at the 3rd traffic light from the bridge (R. 503). Leroy Moton was quite positive he and Viola Luizzo left Selma at 7:34 P. M. (R. 609).

At the radar point 11 miles east of Selma, Rowe said he saw a Volkswagen type station wagon (R. 430). The ticket for this vehicle was timed at 7:50 M. (R. 628). Rowe said the speed along this 11 as went up to 90 and 100 miles an hour (R. 428). From Selma to the scene was 27.4 miles (R. 363), hence 16.4 miles from the radar point to the scene, and 3.1 miles from that point to the end of the 4 lane highway (R. 363). Rowe stated they were going 60 to 65 miles an hour when the shooting occurred (R. 504); Shanahan said Rowe told him it was in excess of 90 and 100 miles an hour (R. 315). At 60 miles an hour they arrived at the scene about 8:17 P. M. Rowe told Shanahan the shooting occurred about 8:30 P. M. (R. 310). Moton said the time was about 8:00 P. M. (R. 610).

Rowe stated to Shanahan that Viola Luizzo turned and looked directly at the automobile just before Wilkins and Eaton fired (R. 313). Rowe confirmed this position of Mrs. Luizzo (R. 433), and he said Wilkins fired 2 fast shots into the front window when the back of their car was just about even with the front of hers and before Eaton fired (R. 433). After Wilkins fired Thomas speeded up to get around the Luizzo car and

this was when Eaton started to fire (R. 433). (The testimony of Marion Williams, R. 769-770, is entirely inconsistent with this). Dr. Shoffeit testified the bullet entered the head at a point "slightly forward of the lower part of the left ear and ranged to the right, slightly upward and slightly to the rear to a point at the base of the brain where the cord is connected to the brain" and the cord was almost severed at the base of the brain (R. 554). Marion Williams testified the only bullet hole found in the driver's window, which bullet went into the rain gutter, was about 2½ inches down from the top and about 6 or 8 inches forward of the back edge of the window (R. 765). If Viola Luizzo were looking directly at the Rowe car when the shots were fired and Rowe and she practically opposite each other it seems highly improbable the bullet would have struck Viola Luizzo where it did and take the course it did. And, if Thomas speeded up immediately it is similiarly highly improbable Rowe could have seen the window "shatter and break" (R. 309-313), especially with Wilkins occupying the right hand seat.

Rowe said after the shooting they accelerated to 90 or better, and threw the casings out at that speed (R. 506); Rowe to Shanahan was 110 miles an hour (R. 316). The casings found by Riley were .55 of a mile from the scene (R. 591), which at 90 miles an hour would take 22 seconds, at 110 miles an hour about 18 seconds, all the while engaged in conversation and unloading weapons (R. 317-318). It will be noted Agent Riley found the .38 caliber casings scattered along the shoulder of the road from 2 to 8 or 9 feet from the edge (R. 589). Common sense dictates the conclusion casings thrown from an automobile traveling from 90 to 110 miles an hour would be caught in the windstream, carried to the rear of the car, and in all probability



would be in the road. (Query: Where were the .22 caliber casings thrown out almost simultaneously?)

Leaving the scene at about 8:17 P. M., they proceeded to St. Francis Motel, arriving about 8:37 P. M. (R. 509). It was about 50 miles from Pettus Bridge to St. Francis (R. 386), so it was about 22.6 miles from the scene to St. Francis. If Thomas were driving at speeds 90 and above, this took only 15 minutes. There was a 90 degree turn at St. Francis to get onto the bypass, a 90 degree turn at an entrance to Maxwell Field, and another 90 degree turn to get onto U. S. 31 North. The Court is asked also to notice judicially from the point around the intersection of U. S. 31 and 80 to Prattville was a congested area, and that it was approximately 73.3 miles from Montgomery (St. Francis) to Alabaster, two incorporated municipalities in Alabama. They detoured for about 12 miles (R. 435; 511) and stopped at a service station about 6 minutes (R. 511). Total distance was 85.3 miles and at 90 miles an hour *average* this took about 64 minutes or 70 minutes total. The time was about 9:47 P. M., in Alabaster, another congested area, or 9:42 P. M., if a 90 mile an hour *average* from the scene to St. Francis is allowed.

From Alabaster to Bessemer, both incorporated municipalities in Alabama, over County Roads 44, 17 and 52 and State 150, was about 23.4 miles, with three 90 degree turns in Alabaster, 1 to get onto County 17, and 5 miles of winding, narrow road on County 52. Bessemer was also a congested area. This 23.4 miles at 90 miles an hour *average* took about 17 minutes and the time was 9:59 P. M. From Bessemer to Brighton, both incorporated municipalities, and both congested, was about 1.3 miles, or 1 minute. The time was 10:00

P. M., at Brighton VFW, which was Rowe's positive outside time of arrival at VFW (R. 513). Thus, the Rowe group traveled about 132.6 miles in 1 hour 33 minutes to average about 90 miles an hour. This is fantastic when one considers the congested areas traversed, with traffic lights and the like; the 90 degree turns; and with 20,000 to 30,000 people in Montgomery that day there most certainly was considerable traffic on the highway. It is submitted no reasonable man could accept this, or if he did, he was influenced by bias or prejudice. The statement of Thomas to Gettings (R. 724) was more reasonable and consistent in that the group went back to Birmingham (Bessemer) via Selma, which was about 120 miles through Prattville or about 100 miles through Maplesville and Clanton. Leaving Selma around 7:45 P. M., the group, at a realistic *average* speed, arrived within the time testified to.

Appellants contend the verdict and judgment was against the great weight of the evidence, and inasmuch as primary reliance was had by the United States on the murder of Viola Luizzo, there should be a judgment here of reversal.<sup>(19)</sup>

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(19) Many, many questions could be asked about this case, any one of which would raise a doubt in the mind of any reasonable man. However, to belabor the evidence now would add nothing more to the error shown.

Volume 14

Viola Liuzzo

44-28601



Memorandum to Mr. Conrad  
Re: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA., ET AL.,  
VICTIMS; CR; EL  
44-28601

Eaton died several months ago and, hence, cannot be tried.

In the trial of Thomas, Attorney General Flowers decided not to use the testimony of Thomas Rowe (FBI informant) nor the testimony of Leroy Moton, a Negro teenager who was riding with Mrs. Liuzzo when she was shot. Flowers stated that several jurors in the previous trials had remarked that they did not believe Rowe's story because he had violated his Klan oath and Moton made an exceedingly poor witness.

**ACTION:**

For information.

*[Handwritten: J. T.]*  
*[Handwritten: B. J.]*  
*[Handwritten: 10/5/67]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: 7-19-67

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

(12) Pages A3620-A3621. Congressman Irwin, (D) Connecticut, placed in the Record an article entitled "Convict the Killers for a Change" written by Alfred Baker Lewis and published in the Chicago Daily Defender in three installments on July 3, 5, and 6. The article makes reference to the murder of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi, and states "It is known who did the job, for someone pointed out to the F.B.I. where they were buried and they could not have been found otherwise." The article also comments on the murder of civil rights worker Mrs. Liuzzo in Jaynesville, Alabama. It states "One of those who was in the murder car, Gary Thomas Rowe, was an agent of the F.B.I. who had succeeded in gaining membership in the Klan. He gave evidence at the trial and pinned the shooting on Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. But the defense counsel waved Mrs. Liuzzo's membership card in the NAACP at the jury, and the jury at the first trial failed to convict and at the second trial acquitted him." (Gary Thomas Rowe was an informant from 2-13-62 until 1-17-66 per the Domestic Intelligence Division.)

Original filed in: 66-1731-3113

44-28601-  
NOT RECORDED  
133 JUL 26 1967

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for 7-18-67 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

53 AUG 3 1967

On the same date, Wilkins, an unmarried auto mechanic who had no military service, was arrested by FBI Agents in Bessemer. He refused to make any statement whatsoever.

An autopsy was conducted by the Alabama Department of Toxicology, and the report of a post-mortem examination of the body of Mrs. Liuzzo showed a bullet hole about one-half inch in diameter in the left face, one inch forward of the lower part of the ear. [REDACTED] was lodged at the base of the brain. The bullet had gone through the spinal cord at the base of the brain and caused almost instantaneous death. Numerous superficial small skin breaks appeared on the left face and neck from which fragments of lead and glass were recovered. b7A

[REDACTED]

At 10:25 a.m., on the morning of March 26, 1965, complaints authorized by an Assistant Attorney General of the United States were filed before a U.S. Commissioner in Montgomery charging Eaton, Wilkins, Thomas and Rowe with violation of Section 241, Title 18, U.S. Code, in a conspiracy to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery in the free exercise and enjoyment of rights and privileges secured them by the Constitution of the United States. All four were arraigned the same date before a U.S. Commissioner in Birmingham. Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins were represented by an attorney who had been publicly identified as counsel of the Ku Klux Klan. Thomas, Eaton and Rowe were released on bonds of \$50,000 each. Wilkins was not released on bond until March 29th because of a separate Federal probation violator's warrant outstanding against him.

Charges against Thomas, Wilkins and Eaton were presented to a Federal Grand Jury at Montgomery on April 5, 1965, and an indictment was returned the following day charging all three with conspiracy in violation of the U.S. Civil Rights Statute. Rowe was not indicted by the Federal Grand Jury.

On May 3rd state authorities began their prosecution with the trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., on a charge of first degree murder. Wilkins, Eaton and Thomas all had been indicted by the State of Alabama for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo. The case went to a jury on May 6, 1965, and the following day the judge declared a mistrial after the jury was hopelessly deadlocked. Rowe offered testimony for the state in this trial.



Wilkins was retried by the state in Hayneville, Alabama, from October 18th to October 22nd during which time Rowe again testified. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Following the acquittal of Wilkins in state court, Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton were arraigned in Federal court, and all entered pleas of not guilty to the Federal indictment.

The three were tried jointly in U.S. District Court in Montgomery, from November 29th to December 3rd with Rowe as the principal prosecuting witness, and the Federal jury returned a verdict of guilty against all three. On December 3rd the Federal judge sentenced Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins to serve 10 years each in the custody of the U.S. Attorney General. All were released the following day on \$10,000 bond each, pending appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Wilkins at the time of the shooting was on one year's Federal probation, which had been previously imposed against him on a charge of possession of a sawed-off shotgun following an arrest by local authorities at Hueytown, Alabama, on March 11, 1964. Wilkins was arraigned in Federal Court, Birmingham, on December 20, 1965, and the one year's probation was revoked. He was ordered to begin serving a sentence of one year and a day on January 4, 1966.

William Orrville Eaton died on March 9, 1966, at Bessemer of natural causes.

Eugene Thomas was tried for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo in state court in Hayneville, on September 26, 1966. On September 27th a jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

On April 27, 1967, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the 10-year sentences Wilkins and Thomas had received on December 3, 1965, in U.S. District Court, Montgomery.

EUGENE THOMAS;  
WILLIAM ORRVILLE EATON;  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.

VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

**SYNOPSIS:** On March 25, 1965, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo who came from Detroit, Michigan, on March 19, 1965, was shot to death while driving her car along Highway 80 in Lowndes County, Alabama. Earlier in the day she had participated in a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, conducted by civil rights workers. Mrs. Liuzzo and a young Negro man were returning to Montgomery after driving marchers to Selma. [REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED]

Together they drove to Montgomery and then to Selma. After leaving a tavern in Selma, the four men continued to Highway 80 where they observed a car being driven by a white woman with a Negro passenger. Thomas, who operated the automobile, overtook the Liuzzo car as Eaton and Wilkins fired into the vehicle. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] On March 26, 1965, Eaton, Thomas, Wilkins and Rowe were charged with violation of Section 241, Title 18, U.S. Code and were arrested by FBI Agents on the same date. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] On April 5, 1965, an indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury at Montgomery charging Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton with violation of the U.S. Civil Rights Statute. The State of Alabama indicted Wilkins, Eaton and Thomas for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo. Wilkins was tried for first degree murder on

I. C. # 44-23801 ✓

GWJ

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ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*See 295  
pg 300-303*

On the morning of March 26, 1965, at 10:25 a.m., complaints authorized by a U. S. Assistant Attorney General were filed before U. S. Commissioner in Montgomery, charging Eaton, Wilkins, Thomas and Rowe with violation of Section 241, Title 18, U. S. Code, in a conspiracy to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of rights and privileges secured them by the Constitution of the United States. All four were arraigned this same date before U. S. Commissioner in Birmingham. Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins were represented by Attorney Matt Murphy, (publicly identified as the klan attorney.) Thomas, Eaton and Rowe were released on bonds of \$50,000 each that night, but Wilkins was not released until March 29, 1965, in view of a separate federal probation violator's warrant outstanding against him. 37.

(Mobile summary memo, 4/12/65, pages 300-305)

*See 311  
pg 303*

Charges against Thomas, Wilkins and Eaton were presented to a Federal Grand Jury at Montgomery, Alabama, April 5, 1965, and an indictment was returned the next day charging all three with conspiracy in violation of the U. S. Civil Rights Statute.

(Report of SA [REDACTED] 5/3/65, at Mobile) b7c

*See 276  
pg 303*

State authorities started prosecution with the trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. on a first degree murder charge May 3, 1965. The state had indicted Wilkins, Eaton and Thomas for the murder of Mrs. Luther. The case went to a jury on 8/19



8619  
May 6, 1965, and the following day the Judge declared a mis-  
trial after the jury was hopelessly deadlocked. Rowe testified  
for the state in this trial. b7c

(Report of SA [REDACTED]  
5/25/65, at Mobile)

Sub 515  
The state retried Wilkins in Hayneville, Alabama,  
October 18-22, 1965, at which time Rowe again testified, and a  
jury returned a verdict of not guilty. 88

(Report of SA [REDACTED]  
11/16/65, at Mobile)

Sub 517  
Following the acquittal of Wilkins in State Court,  
Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton were arraigned in Federal Court, and  
pleaded not guilty to federal indictment. 500

876  
(Report of SA [REDACTED]  
November 16, 1965, at Mobile)

Sub 633  
Synopsis  
All three were tried jointly in U. S. District Court  
in Montgomery, November 29, 1965, through December 3, 1965, with  
Rowe as the principal prosecuting witness, and the federal jury  
returned a verdict of guilty against all three. On December 3,  
1965, the federal Judge sentenced Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins each  
to serve 10 years in custody of the U. S. Attorney General.

All three were released the following day on \$10,000 bond each,  
pending appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. 517  
of 1965  
(Report of SA [REDACTED]  
12/9/65, at Mobile)

Sub 638  
Wilkins at the time of this shooting was on one year's  
federal probation, which had been previously imposed against him  
on a charge of possession of a sawed-off shotgun following an

FBI

Date: 1/6/71

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: Director, FBI (137-6295)

FROM: SAC, San Diego (44-312)

GARY THOMAS ROWE, AKA  
THOMAS NEIL MOORE  
FORMER RACIAL INFORMANT

*Viola Luzzo*

Re San Diego letter 12/8/70

Enclosed herewith are three copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning the above-captioned individual. It is requested that the Bureau make this letterhead memorandum available to the Department of Justice. It is also requested that the Bureau, if possible, advise as to the identity of the individual in the Department of Justice that Mr. ROWE should contact concerning information set forth in the enclosed letterhead memorandum.

② - Bureau (Enclosure - 1)  
1 - SD

CEB:mah  
(3)

NOT RECORDED

176 JAN 15 1971

*100 CRD CRD  
694G LK/amp*

*1-11-71*

*137-6295*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent Charge

137-6295-71  
ORIGINAL FILED IN J

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Diego, California  
January 6, 1971

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

GARY THOMAS ROWE  
also known as  
THOMAS NEIL MOORE

INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 12/7/70 the above-captioned individual appeared at the San Diego Office of the FBI and provided the following information:

ROWE advised he was currently unemployed and had been unemployed for some time and was experiencing financial difficulties as well as being unable to obtain employment. He stated that as a result of this, the following items had been preying on his mind and he felt that the FBI and particularly Mr. HOOVER were not aware of the activities of former Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR. ROWE had the highest praise for the FBI, stating that he would be happy to serve in the same capacity he had in the past if he were in a position where he could be of benefit. He felt that he had done a great service for his country. He stated, however, that he felt the Department and particularly Mr. DOAR had not been fair with him and cited the following:

[REDACTED]

44-28601-

ENCLOSURE